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Pathways



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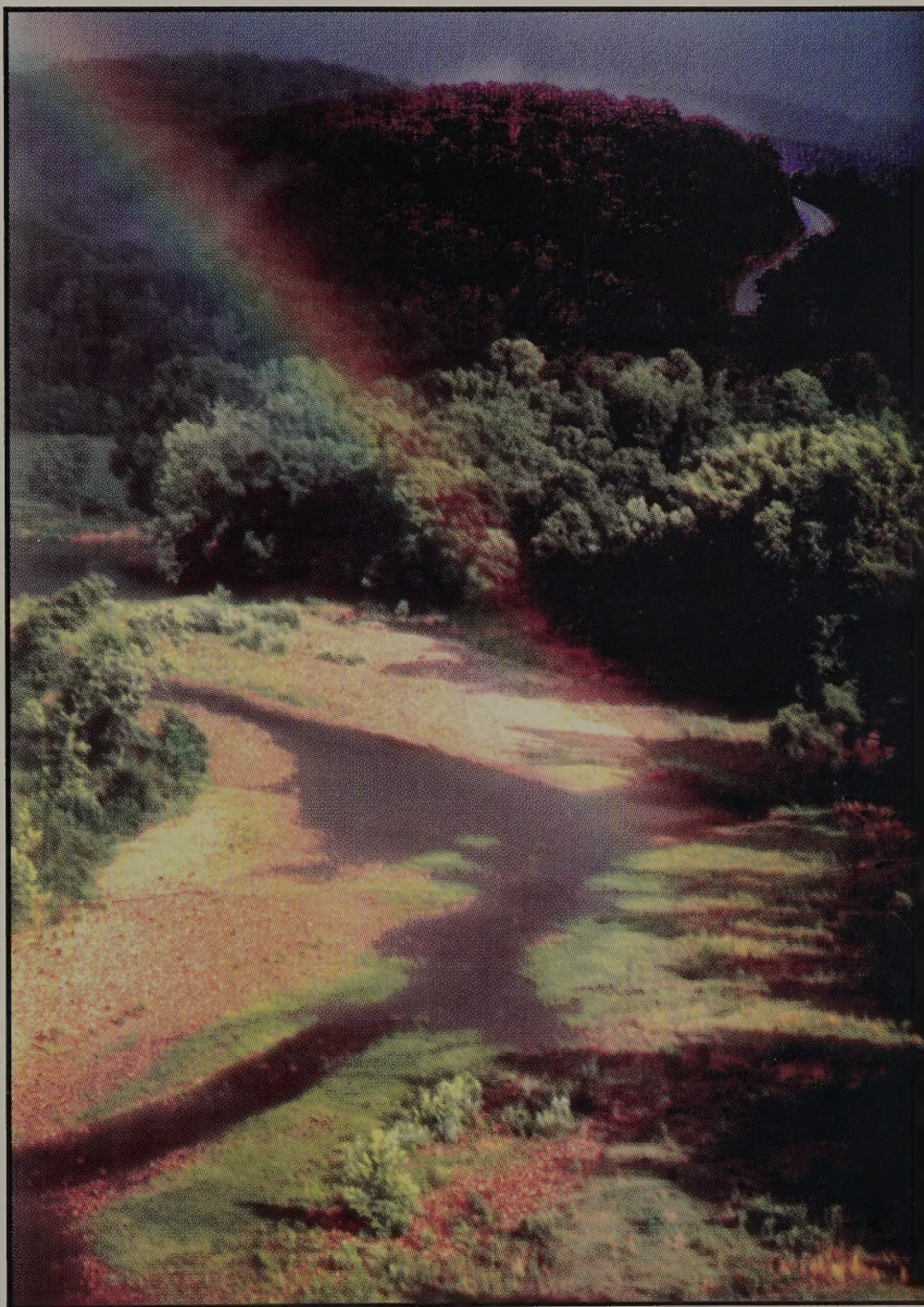


photo by Jim Roth

A Patchwork of Fun Things to Know

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Welcome to the first issue of "Pathways", a magazine we hope will entertain and inform you with lots of information about Newton County you may not know, whether you're a long-time resident or just visiting with us.

"Pathways" has been produced by the Newton County Action Team, a board of volunteer members from government, business, interested organizations and agencies and the private sector working to improve the economy of Newton County through enhancing tourism and exploring utilization of value-added timber products.

We hope our paths will cross often on the byways of Newton County!

Some County Facts

Weather in the Ozarks is as diverse as the scenery, and it can change dramatically without warning. The average temperature in the winter is 40 degrees and summer is 80 degrees, but temperatures can range from an average low of 32 degrees to an average maximum of 92 degrees. Annual rainfall is approximately 45 inches, annual snowfall, five inches.

There are four schools in the county for grades K-12. They are located at Deer, Jasper, Western Grove and Mt. Judea. North Arkansas Community-Technical College is located in Harrison.

There are two family practice clinics with physicians and nurse practitioners available. They are located at Deer, where it is owned by St. Mary's Hospital, and at Jasper, where it is owned by North Arkansas Medical Center. The Newton County Ambulance Service is also owned by NAMC and is located at Jasper. There is a county health unit, in-home health care, a nursing home, a dental office and an optometrist, all located in Jasper.

There is a veterinary clinic at Western Grove.

Two apartment buildings in Jasper are available specifically for senior citizens and are handicapped-accessible.

Rentals of 1-2 bedroom houses range from \$200 up but are difficult to find in this area.

Arkansas Scenic Byway 7, the state's first national scenic byway, cuts through the heart of the county, running north and south. It is 20 miles to Harrison from Jasper and 60 miles to Russellville or Branson.

The population of the county is approximately 7,700 and overall is slightly older than that of the state as a whole.

There are ten community water associations in the county: Basin Valley, Deer, Eastern Newton County, Jasper, Lurton-Pelsor, Mockingbird Hill, Mt. Sherman, Nail-Swain, Parthenon and Western Grove. There are eight community fire departments: Compton, Deer, Jasper, Mt. Judea, Mt. Sherman, Parthenon, Western Grove and Ponca. Seven of them have First Responder groups: Compton, Deer, Ponca, Jasper, Mt. Judea, Mt. Sherman and Parthenon.

Newton County is home to the headwaters of the nation's first National River, the Buffalo. More than one third of the county is owned by some government entity, (Park Service, Forest Service, State of Arkansas and county government)

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A Driving Lesson

The winding mountain roads with their scenic vistas are perfect for leisurely driving and the many areas open to swimmers, picnickers, fishermen and hikers mean you can easily plan an all-day driving tour filled with fun for the whole family. On these two pages is a very brief summary of some of the places you may want to enjoy. We've taken highway segments and followed them from point to point. You can plan your own tour, linking together the segments to make a loop to your point of beginning.

Highway 16 East, Pelsor to Ben Hur - (10 miles)

Begin with a stop at the historic Hankins Store in Pelsor, also known as Sand Gap. Part of the old, original store has been preserved and gives an enchanting look at the past of this area which was once a center for big logging camps. The drive to Ben Hur is scenic and quiet and follows the Richland Creek valley. A good hiking stop is Pedestal Rocks, an area distinguished by the unusual pedestal formations carved from the bluff lines by wind and water. A parking area and signed trail guides visitors. At Ben Hur, you can pick up Forest Service road 1205 to see the falls on Falling Water Creek. Drive on into the Richland Creek Wilderness Area and enjoy the small, isolated camp area with chemical toilets and drinking water. There's picnic space and swimming, fishing and hunting. A three mile hike upstream will take you to Richland Creek's famous waterfalls.

Highway 16 West, Hwy. 7 Junction to Edwards Junction (13 miles) - First stop is Alum Cove recreation area, a Forest Service hiking and picnicking area with one of the state's three natural bridges. Mile long trail is well maintained and only the part up and down the hill to the bridge is strenuous. Rock shelters and a waterfall are interesting features. Just outside the community of Deer, there is a scenic pullout and from there on to Edwards Junction, you'll be looking off

into the rugged Piney Creek watershed. A recent Arkansas Archeological Society "dig" in this area yielded fascinating information about early Indians, who inhabited the bluff shelters you'll see. This is one of the great areas to watch for wildlife and to

see some plants such as summer magnolia that are not found in other parts of the county. Eight miles from the Highway 7 Junction, FS Road 1228 turns north and goes two miles to the Dismal Hollow

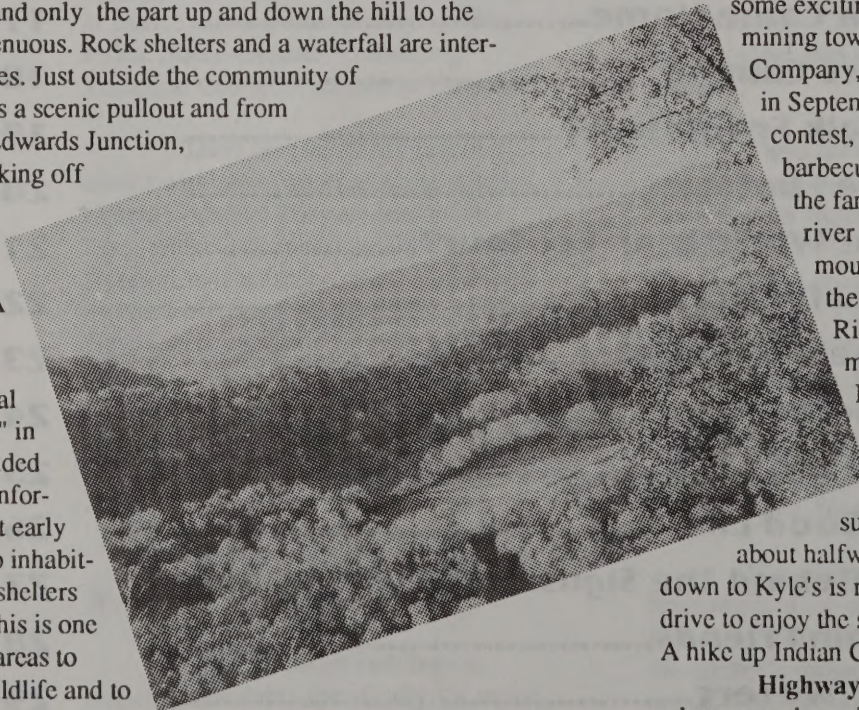
area, a narrow canyon surrounded by high bluffs rising to 100 feet. Several waterfalls cascade over the bluffs and there is outstandingly rich plant variety in the area. Hiking is pretty rugged.

Highway 21 Edwards Junction to Boxley (13 miles) This road will take you down the mountain to the Buffalo River valley and the Boxley historic district. Pioneer structures and site features in this area listed on the National Register of Historic Places date back to the 1850s. A major Civil War skirmish occurred in this area, at Whitely's Mill. The old Boxley school, a two story frame building between the church and cemetery, is a picturesque survivor of the turn of the century. The old mill pond on the east side of the highway is your cue to watch for the Villines grist mill, still standing in a grove of trees a short distance from the highway. The mill pond is a good place to watch for wildlife, particularly birds like the Great Blue Heron.

Highway 43-74, Boxley to Jasper (18 miles)

You'll drive along the Buffalo River from Boxley to Ponca and there's an excellent swimming hole at the bridge at Ponca. Across the road is the historic Beaver Jim Villines cabin, a log home of the mid 1800's. In the fields south of the bridge, elk are frequently seen. Best time for elk watching is early morning and late evening. Lost Valley is just to the west of the highway between Boxley and Ponca. Camping and picnic facilities are available and the rugged hike along a small stream leads to a waterfall and a small cave. Fishing is good in the river and, when water is abundant, canoes can be launched from below the bridge for some exciting floating. The town of Ponca, born as a mining town and named for the Ponca City Mining Company, hosts it's annual Ponca Days celebration in September of each year and features a fiddlers' contest, arts and crafts, a dance, a parade, and barbecued 'burgers for everyone. Trail head for the famous Goat Trail along the bluff above the river is near here. After you climb back up the mountain on your way to Jasper, you'll see the gate to Steel Creek, a Buffalo National River camping area with fishing, swimming, picnicking and watchable wildlife. Nestled against some of the river's most awesome limestone bluffs, it's a must for photographers who want to capture the majesty of the local scenery. Another such campground is at Kyle's Landing, about halfway between Ponca and Jasper. The road down to Kyle's is narrow and steep, but it's well worth the drive to enjoy the scenery, swimming, camping and hiking. A hike up Indian Creek is one of the most scenic in the area.

Highway 43, Ponca to Compton . This route will take you to the trail head for Hemmed in Hollow in the Upper Buffalo Wilderness. Hemmed-in-Hollow is about five miles from the trail head at Compton and most of the trail is suitable for horseback riding. There's space in the



parking area for trailers. About a mile of foot trail to the waterfall is not open to horses but an old field across the river from the mouth of the hollow makes a good place to leave them.

There are many old roads on the Buffalo National River that are suitable for horseback riding and hiking alike and they can be located and followed easily. Topographical maps which are available at park headquarters in Harrison or at the ranger stations at Pruitt, Silver Hill and Buffalo Point can be invaluable aids in the field and for planning your trips.

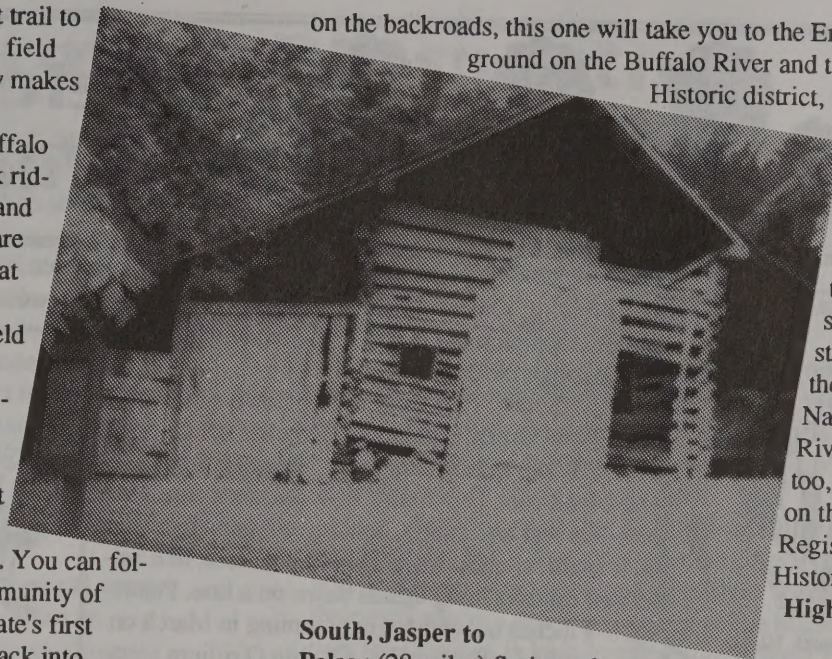
The farms along the top of the mountain, along the highway from Compton to Hilltop, have opened up panoramic vistas on all sides and the view from the scenic pull-out just after you start down the hill towards Harrison will, literally, take your breath away. You can follow a good, paved road through the little community of Gaither to get back to State Highway 7, the state's first National Scenic Byway and wend your way back into Newton County

State Highway 7, Dogpatch to Jasper (10 miles)

Just south of Dogpatch, a pull-out gives you access to a historical marker. This is the site where a block of marble was quarried to send to the nation's capital to be placed in the Washington Monument. It was drawn overland by teams of oxen to Clarksville where it was shipped out on the Arkansas River. If you stop at the pullout, you can catch a glimpse of Marble Falls across the road. Here is where Peter Bellah built a grist mill in the 1800s with an enormous over-shot wheel which was replaced in the theme park's heyday and stands now at the side of the falls. The grist mill was the center of the community of Wilcockson which sprang up here and was, for a time, the county seat. As you travel on south, you'll drop into the Mill Creek valley and cross a little bridge over Harp Creek, one of three in the county listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Built in 1928 it is an open-spandrell, concrete deck-arch bridge. Just a few moments later, you'll cross the bridge over the Buffalo River. Built in 1931, it is a Pennsylvania-truss bridge and is the second of the three bridges listed on this country's official list of historically significant properties. Swimming and fishing can be accessed by turning east off the highway on the north side of the bridge and driving down to the Pruitt canoe launch area. Picnic areas, a swimming beach, chemical toilets and access to the Pruitt-Ozark hiking trail are reached by crossing the bridge and turning at the ranger station. Complete information about the Buffalo National River and many publications and maps are available at the ranger station. About halfway between Pruitt and Jasper, a Forest Service sign will alert you to the turn to the Koen Experimental Forest. Just a short distance off the road is an easy, handicapped-accessible hiking trail that is an interesting interpretive experience that will help you identify local trees, shrubs and plants. This trail was built through local contributions, JTPA labor, and Forest Service cooperation and is maintained by local organizations. There is an adjacent picnic area that is one of the least-known, and therefore quietest, public picnic areas. If you care to explore farther

on the backroads, this one will take you to the Erbie Campground on the Buffalo River and to the Erbie

Historic district, which includes the Parker-Hickman farmstead, the oldest standing structure in the Buffalo National River. This, too, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Highway 7



South, Jasper to

Pelsor (28 miles) Serious shoppers will never make this drive without stopping at least once. Antiques and crafts are interspersed with good restaurants so you can plan a leisurely day. You'll find much that is authentic, locally-made, heirloom quality in the handcrafted quilts, baskets, furniture, wood craft, dolls and other items and the prices are realistic. There is a wonderful and very spacious scenic pull-out at McElroy Gap bounded by a long native-stone wall and there is a Green Thumb park with two levels of picnic space and a view of the Big Creek Valley. This road is absolutely the best of the best, the cream of Arkansas' first National Scenic Byway so take time to enjoy the scenery. Car and Driver Magazine ranks it as one of the most fun to drive roads in the nation.

Highway 374, Jasper to the Twin Bridges (Mt. Judea) From Highway 7 at the top of the mountain five miles south of Jasper, Highway 374 turns east and drops into the beautiful Big Creek valley, with panoramic views from the mountainside and a meandering path along the creek bank through the valley. At the low water bridge at Vendor there's plenty of room to pull off and splash in the water. This road is an excellent bike route if you have someone pick you up at Mt. Judea so you don't have to walk back up the hill. The eastern end is at the junction with Highway 123 at the Twin Bridges, a pair of old one-lane bridges. You can turn south to tour the Mt. Judea and Bass area or north towards Piercetown, Hasty and Western Grove. That route will take you to the Buffalo River again, with access at Carver bridge for camping and water sports.

Highway 327, Jasper to Parthenon. The Hudson Sanitarium Agriculture Building Historic District, part of the first farm along this pretty little five mile drive along Little Buffalo, is another National Register site. Built to help finance a tuberculosis sanitarium that was part of a program that served as a model for many states, it was owned by Dr. W.A. Hudson. Diamond Cave is located just a mile north of this road which will take you all the way to the Highway 16 junction at Wayton, but the part from Parthenon on is still under construction and not yet paved, so it could be rough and, in rain, very muddy.



Celebrate the Wildflowers!

Roadside blooms begin as early as March and may last into November and you'll see many wildflowers while driving. Others can be discovered on hikes into the woods. Take the time to stop and enjoy, identify and photograph them to add to the enjoyment of your trips through the county.

Some of the early spring flowers include Blue-Eyed Grass, Dutchman's Britches, Bird's-foot Violet, Wake Robin, Dog-tooth Violet or Trout Lily, and Blood-root. Dutchman's Britches has a dark green fern-like leaf and dainty, bending columns festooned with small, creamy-white flowers that look like ballooned trousers hung upside down on a line. Plants are 5-9 inches tall and begin blooming in March on damp, wooded hillsides. Wake Robin (*Trillium recur-*

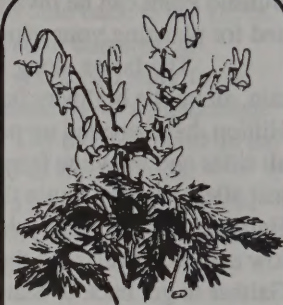


Dog-tooth Violet

vatum) stands 8-12 inches on a long slender stem with a three-leafed top and a center flower that may be yellow-green or maroon. The Bird's foot violet is another



Blood-root



Dutchman's Britches



Goldenrod



Aster

woods flower. It is a viola and the flowers and leaves look like domestic pansies. Flowers have dark purple upper petals and lavender lower petals. The plants are four inches tall and bloom in April and May. Long banks filled with them are common along the highway in the southern part of the county. The tiny flowers of blue-eyed grass won't be easily spotted by those who dash by the meadows and open woods. You'll have to stop and look for this 8-12 inch plant with its grassy leaves and dainty bright-blue flowers which bloom late March through April. Spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*) may show up in your lawn as well as woods and open areas all over the county. Its white to delicate pink blooms are veined with slightly darker color and its leaves are long and slender. Flowers bloom in small clusters. The Blood-root's big dark green leaf has a pale underside and comes up wrapped up, gradually opening out as the single waxy-white flower blooms on the separate stem in the center. The plant is 6-8 inches tall and blooms very early. It gets its name from the red sap in the roots.



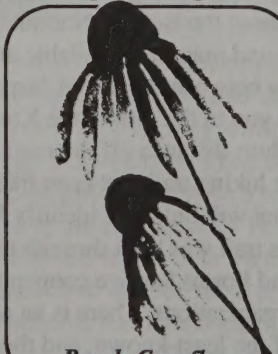
Wake Robin

Summer flowers include the Black-Eyed Susan, common along the roadsides everywhere, Butterfly Weed, Purple Coneflower, Wild Sweet William, Queen Anne's Lace and Tickseed Coreopsis. Black-Eyed Susans are a vibrant yellow daisy with black centers that may bloom as early as May and usually last until October. Plants may be slightly over two feet tall. Butterfly Weed is a tall plant with a milky stem, profuse small, dark green leaves, and big heads of tiny bright orange flowers. They, too, enjoy open spaces and are often found along roadsides. They take their name from their attraction to butterflies. Purple Coneflower grows up to three feet high and bloom from May to July. Pale lavender petals droop downwards from conical black centers of the flowers. Wild Sweet William is a phlox and ranges from white to dark lavender in color. The sweetly perfumed flower-cluster heads appear on stems about 10-12 inches tall from April through June. Queen Anne's Lace may be as much as 5 feet tall. It has a leaf similar to a carrot and wide, flat heads of lacy white flowers. There are several species of coreopsis and they can bloom at various times from April to September. The eight petals of the flower are arranged around a darker center and stand 2-4 feet tall.



Sweet William

Fall flowers include several species of goldenrod which can grow up to four feet tall and blooms from August to November. The feathery yellow heads look similar to corn tassels. The Aster is purple in color with yellow centers and grows 2-5 feet tall, blooming late July through October on woody stems heavily leafed.



Purple Coneflower



Tickseed Coreopsis

The Farmer's Perspective

Farming has always been a mainstay of Newton County's economy. Of course, dramatic changes have been made over the years. Where once rows of cotton stood, live-stock now pastures. Where once teams of horses were prized pieces of equipment, the most modern tractors now work. Where once there were many farms worked by large families, there are now large farms and fewer families. As you travel the county, you'll see many abandoned farmsteads, perhaps only evidenced by the flowers that once grew on the doorstep or a part of an old chimney still standing. What was life like for those who lived and worked there? Perhaps the best way is to let them tell their stories. The following is a collection of reminiscences by and about Newton County farmers.

Garland Smith says he was just six years old when he started helping his father around the farm. When he began farming on his own in 1920, he had a horse-drawn mower as his primary piece of equipment. Both he and his wife, Nancy, say they would not like to go back and start again like that. "The work day was from sunup to sundown," Nancy said. "and I went to the field right along with the men. At night, I'd get supper ready while Garland took care of his team and the work day ended by lantern light." There were sometimes as many as 13 hired hands to be fed besides the family. Cotton was the only cash crop raised on the farm and in the fall, when it was harvested, there was money to buy the children's school shoes and the few groceries they couldn't produce themselves like coffee, salt and baking soda. When the boll weevil finally brought an end to cotton farming, Garland switched to a livestock operation and later raised laying hens when a hatchery opened in the area. For ten years, he gathered as many as 1500 dozen eggs a day. When there was a break in the farming, Garland rode all over the country on an old gray mule named Kate to vaccinate hogs. Always a progressive farmer, Garland had the first alfalfa hay and was an early user of Bermuda grass for his pastures.

While refrigerators and freezers have been around long enough to be taken for granted, many remember when a good, cold spring was a farm necessity. That's where the milk and butter were stored. J. Town Greenhaw said he remembered the farm of Elizabeth Dodson from his youth. There was a large barn lot with cribs and stables and a big spring with a cedar log spring house. In it were jars of milk, crocks of butter and cream and other foods, kept cool by the constant flow of cold water.

Recalling the farms of his youth, Doy Brasel told about the "weaning houses", a new cabin built near the folks for young newlyweds. They lived there for a year or two until they got on their feet and moved to their own home. Many farms also had "granny houses" the little cabin grandma moved into when she turned the farm over to the next generation.

Mechanization came finally and farmers discovered trucks. The first one in the county was owned by the Panther Creek Mine and the second one was purchased by

William Riley Shelton, storekeeper at Parthenon. Shelton realized it was a better way to get cotton from the Little Buffalo River Valley to the gin at Western Grove, a trip he had been making with team and wagon. It was a day's drive for Parthenon folks to Harrison, 25 miles away, and camp houses were provided within the city for travelers to spend the night after finishing their trading.

The annual trip to town after the cotton was harvested was the highlight of the year, Kathryn Wheeler remembers. They took theirs to Mt. Judea by wagon and that was equivalent to a trip to New York for these Vendor farm kids who seldom got to go anywhere.

Bertie Slape said community gatherings at Possum Trot when he was a youngster were singings, prayer meetings, butchering days and popcorn parties. Everyone grew their own popcorn and they'd gather at one house and pop it over the fireplace in long-handled wire baskets. Often they would dip homemade molasses from 50 gallon barrels to make popcorn balls. Hogs were allowed to run wild in the woods and in the fall the whole neighborhood would gather to round them up and share the work of butchering. They hung the meat in smokehouses to keep for winter.

There were no fruit jars in the 1920s and 1930s when Gerene Willis was growing up at Wayton. Food was canned, dried, smoked or pickled in 20 gallon stone jars. She remembers her mother digging a big hole and putting turnips and potatoes down in it then covering it with straw or leaves, then dirt and boards. The vegetables would keep all winter that way. In the evenings the children in her family would gather around the fireplace and shell peas or pick seeds out of their home-grown cotton. After the seeds were picked out, Gerene's mother would card the cotton and use it to fill her quilts or to knit warm stockings for the children.

Lorene Sain's first job was cooking and cleaning for an aunt who boarded loggers working in the woods around her home at Pelsor. For this work, Lorene earned \$1 a day, but that was enough to buy material at the Sand Gap store for a new dress.

Lorene remembers walking to school through deep snow with feed sacks tied over her shoes to keep the snow out. "We didn't have overshoes then," she says.

Ruby Watson, born at Walnut in 1916, said one of her jobs as a child was to pick sacks of beans and lay them up on the roof of the house to dry for winter. Once a week the family would harness the team and ride up the mountain to the store at Swain, taking along their surplus eggs to trade for what they needed.

Lonnie Cook was thankful for a good horse when he met the schoolteacher at Bass. He made several trips over Judea Mountain to court her before convincing Eulan to become his wife. They settled into a farm at Bass and raised hogs, horses, sheep and cattle. They also raised oats, corn and cotton. In 1948 Lonnie bought a truck and for several years he earned extra money by hauling chickens, eggs, pigs and calves to Harrison for neighbors. Passengers paid \$1 each for the trip and Lonnie sometimes took as many as 20.

Geologically Speaking

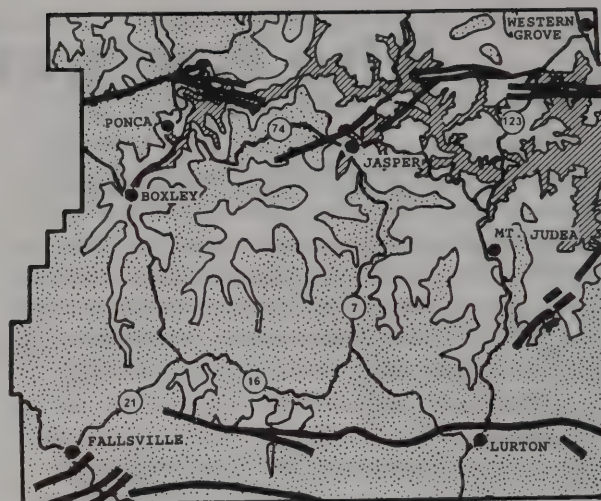
by John David McFarland
Arkansas Geological Commission

The geology of Newton County is dominated by ancient seas, prehistoric upheavals, and past climates. It is the geology and the processes of geology that have created the basis of the magnificent scenery of this county. The rocks were formed from sediment deposited on the bottom and along the shoreline of ancient oceans. The structure is the result of geologic forces that uplifted the region out of the ocean hundreds of millions of years ago. The shape and form of the present day surface was sculpted by more recent weathering and erosion of these rocks as influenced by the type of rock and the underlying structure.

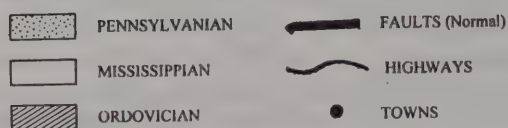
In order to understand the geologic history of a region we must study the rocks. In the case of Newton County and the surrounding area the rocks are marine sedimentary rocks, meaning that they were originally deposited as grains of sand, bits of shell, flakes of clay, or particles of mud in and near an ocean that covered this whole region from time to time. Sedimentary rocks are the footprints of the geologic processes that lead to their creation. If we look close enough we can 'see' the beach, the lagoon, the reef, or the open ocean shore face. If we pay scrupulous attention we can 'see' that the water was here shallow and there deep; we can 'see' the storms, the tides, and the currents that rearranged the sediments. Additionally, the rock layers were deposited one on top of the other through time resulting in an ordered arrangement that allows the relative age of each layer to be easily determined.

The oldest rocks in Newton County are Ordovician age (505 to 438 million years ago). The Ordovician age rocks are found in the bluffs, stream beds, and flood plains of the major streams in the northern part of the county. These rocks represent lagoons, barrier islands, beaches, and shallow ocean environments. The rocks are mostly light gray or tan colored dolostones, sandstones, and limestones. Overall fossils are somewhat uncommon but stromatolites, a structure formed by blue-green algae, are prevalent in several intervals and invertebrate remains are widespread in other layers.

Between the Ordovician and Mississippian Periods the Newton County area alternated between dry-land and ocean several times. Sediment was deposited during times when the ocean covered the area, but erosion during times of dry-land had removed almost all the resulting rock layers before Mississippian time. The Mississippian Period (360 to 320 million years ago) saw a landscape that was filled with a rich dry-land ecosystem of plants and animals to the north and oceans of equally abundant life occupying this region. The Mississippian age rocks of Newton County represent continental shelf and near shore marine environments. The rocks are light to dark gray limestones often with abundant chert (flint), black shales, and a few thin tan colored sandstones. They are frequently richly fossiliferous. Crinoids, bryozoa, brachiopods, and horn corals are the most



GEOLOGIC MAP OF NEWTON COUNTY
ARKANSAS



common but cephalopods, trilobites, and other fossil groups are known as well. A major component of the gravels found in the creeks and rivers of the county are the stream-rounded fragments of chert derived from the lower Mississippian age strata.

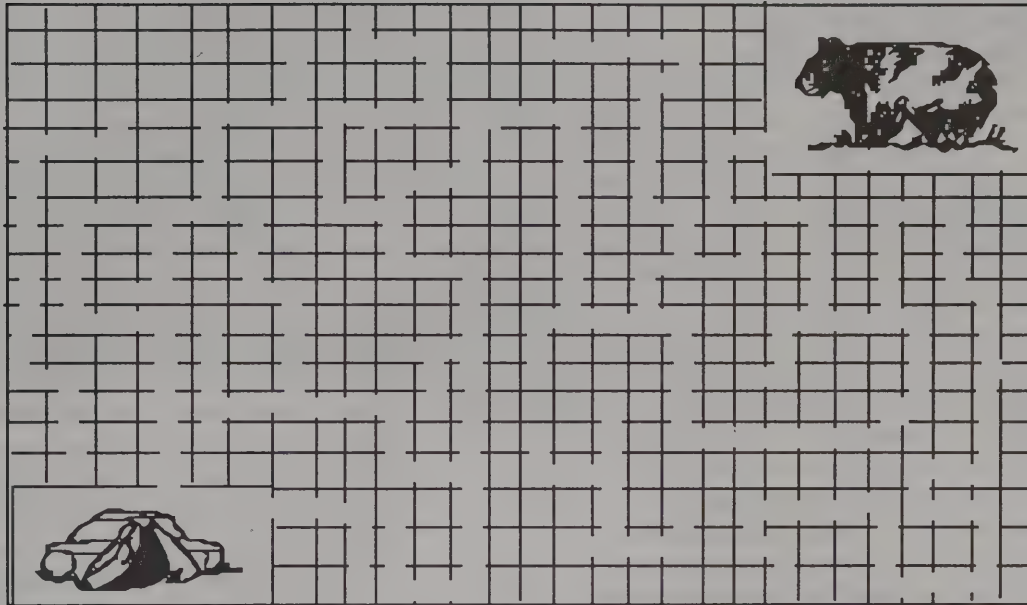
The rocks deposited during the Pennsylvanian Period (320 to 286 million years ago) cap the mountains of Newton County. These rocks are mostly brown, yellowish, or rust colored sandstones and siltstones and tan to black silty shales. A few beds of limy sandstone and sandy limestone may be found in the lower part of the sequence. These rocks represent sediments deposited by ancient deltas and river systems along the margin of a sea and often reorganized by oceanic processes. Cross-bedding is seen in some of the strata indicating the formation of sandbars in that ancient time. Fossils are not common but are occasionally found, especially in the limy sandstone and limestone units.

Toward the end of Pennsylvanian time and continuing for several million years a continental fragment collided with the ancestral North America. This collision pushed up the Ouachita Mountains to the south and warped the Ozarks out of the ocean for the last time. Erosion has carved the present landscape from the rocks during the succeeding time, removing unknown layers of rock from the tops of the mountains as well as the rock that once filled the space now viewed as valleys.

A few faults are observable in Newton County but they are all old faults with no modern history of movement. Lead and zinc were mined in a few places in the northern part of the county from 1864 through the early part of this century and a few tons of coal were extracted near Compton between 1895 and 1936.

Children's Activities

Blacky Bear is ready for a nap.
Help him find his way to his
cave in the rocks.

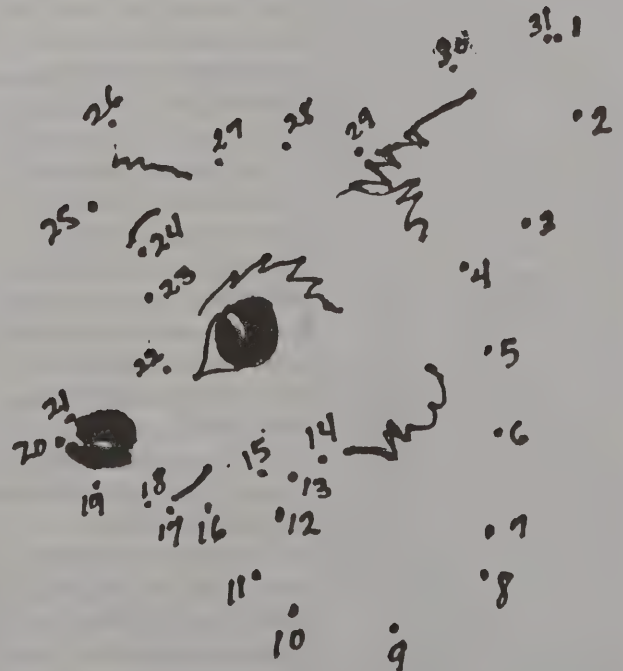


Word Find

B I L I A N B I G C R E E K P Y
M O P N U O L A F F U B S I A R
U H O P E R C J N O T W E N R A
R W C O M P T O N G A X O G T V
R E P S A J N O F I E M L I H W
A M I A O A L R N K R S H T E E
Y V N M T S H E R M A N C S N E
P A E S B A S S E H A S T Y O L
K C Y T A W Y R L J B E A B N L
R N A H T U B A O D R L P E D A
A O R R C I R D W N S A G N S H
Z P D O E G U N G E Z H O H I G
O F E N P X S R A R E E D U R O
T U L E E K O T P C F H I R L L
S T L R L V M O U N T J U D E A
A G E Y E L X O B U W A Y T O N

Bass	Dogpatch	Mt. Sherman	Ponca
Ben Hur	Erbie	Murray	Pruitt
Big Creek	Hasty	Nail	Sam's Throne
Boxley	Jasper	Newton	Swain
Buffalo	Log Hall	Ozark	Vendor
Compton	Low Gap	Parthenon	Wayton
Deer	Mount Judea	Piney	Western Grove
			Yardell

Follow the Dots to meet a local resident



A Taste of History

Many early records of Newton County were destroyed when the courthouse burned during the Civil War. The 1850 Census and the land survey and land entry records from 1838 to 1845 provide the most reliable recorded history. These records tell us that white settlers had begun to make homes in the area as early as 1825.

The first people to live in the county, however, probably came in the Paleo period between 20,000 and 9,000 BC. They were followed by Indians of the Archaic Period, 8,000-1,000 BC, then those who came to be known as the Rock Shelter people. Remnants of their occupation can still be found in south-facing bluff shelters.

When the pioneers began pushing west, the area was established territory of the plains tribes and there is documentation showing the Cherokee, Choctaw, Fox, Kickapoo, Sack and Osage tribes lived in or visited Newton County.

With the treaties of 1808 and 1818, the Cherokee Nation split and those in Newton County were part of the Western Cherokee who wanted to preserve their tradition and heritage by avoiding contact with the whites.

During this time, the Cherokee Sequoyah is believed to have lived near Deer, using the name George Guess. While there, he developed the Cherokee alphabet and, by 1828, Cherokees had a complete written language.

It was the Choctaw, however, who were the last legal land owners before the wave of new settlers and who were the last to disappear from the area. By 1838, all who remained had been assimilated into the white settlements.

Records show Jasper was an established town by 1840. One of the first residents was John M. Ross, a Choctaw, who became the first postmaster and was also the first county clerk, serving from 1842 to 1846. Ross became postmaster on June 7, 1843, when Jasper was made the first postoffice in the county. His salary for the year of 1845 was \$7.09.

Governor Archibald Yell signed the act of the legislation creating Newton County from part of Carroll County on December 14, 1842. Although Ross kept county records at his cabin in



Dinner on the Jasper Square saw the boys off to fight in World War I.

Jasper during his tenure of office, the actual first seat of county government was the home of John Bellah on Shop Creek near Parthenon. Jasper was platted and subdivided in 1842 and became the county seat in 1843.

By 1850, the population of Newton County was 1711 and the average price of 40 acres of land was \$50. New towns began to spring up over the 846 square miles in the county's boundaries and by 1856, there were ten postoffices in the county. In the order in which they were established, they were Jasper, Walnut Fork, Borland, Mt. Parthenon, Whiteley, Denton, Forest Home, Marshall Prairie (now Western Grove), Cave Creek and Mt. Judea.

The early settlers were not untouched by the Civil War. Several skirmishes occurred in the area and many families have handed down stories of "bushwhackers", partisan outlaw gangs. The Confederacy had a saltpeter works at Boxley and one of the best-known area battles occurred when a detachment of the First Iowa Cavalry captured and destroyed it on January 12, 1863, taking 17 prisoners and seizing two steam engines, three boilers and seven iron kettles. They destroyed three concord wagons, two carts and half a ton of saltpeter.

During fighting at Jasper, Union soliders, hunting for the famous Confederate guerilla leader John Cecil, burned the town to the ground.

In the post-war years, communities grew and schools were built. By the turn of the century, cotton was the principal crop, although the boll weevil would finally wipe it out. Most industry was related to the abundance of timber. Large logging camps harvested oak for stave bolts and Sutton Wood Products was founded at Lurton as the Lurton Furniture Factory. At Ponca, mining of lead ore created a boom town.

Rural electrification came to the county in 1937, and in 1951 Highway 7 was paved from Harrison to Jasper. These two accomplishments brought enormous changes to the county, not the least of which was the birth of tourism.

For More Information
The Newton County Library, located on Highway 7 South in Jasper, has several volumes about Newton County and area history. The Library's phone number is 501-446-2983

The Bradley Museum of Newton County History, located three blocks west of the Jasper square, carries the Newton County Cemetery Record book, Lackey's History of Newton County, the Newton County Family History book, all of the "Way Back" books by James Carl and Monk Hefley, and other books about the area. The phone number is 501-446-6247.

Both the Forest Service and Park Service have historians on staff and also have collections of historical information

A Museum Visit

To delve back into the history of Newton County, view a video of the Hilary Jones elk herd or Dr. James Carl Hefley telling stories of growing up at Mt. Judea, or to research records for information about your ancestors, visit the Bradley House Museum of Newton County History in Jasper.

The museum is open from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. six days a week March through November. It is open by special appointment only December through February. Bradley House is located one block south and three blocks west of the Jasper square, across the street from the Methodist Church.

Displays include Native American artifacts, old photos, a gun owned by Frank James, house furnishings from the 1800s and a big collection of old farm tools.

Bradley House, itself, is an exhibit worth seeing. Built in the late 1800s, it was the home of Dr. W.A. and Cora Bradley and was a gift to the Newton County Historical Society from their grandson.

In restoring the house, the Historical Society has attempted to preserve it's original character. Wainscotted walls, hardwood floors, and etched glass doors revive it's turn-of-the-century character.

Dr. Bradley came to Jasper and established a medical practice that was to serve the people of Newton County for more than four decades. In 1896, he married Cora Moss, who's father, Joseph B. Moss, built the house. The well-worn wooden staircase in the front hall is the same one Cora walked down as a bride to her wedding in the front parlor. The room on the opposite side of the hall became the Doctor's office in a time when office hours were whenever he was needed and calls were made on horseback. Many Newton Countians remember anxiously awaiting the first sight of the Doctor's horse "Old Boy."

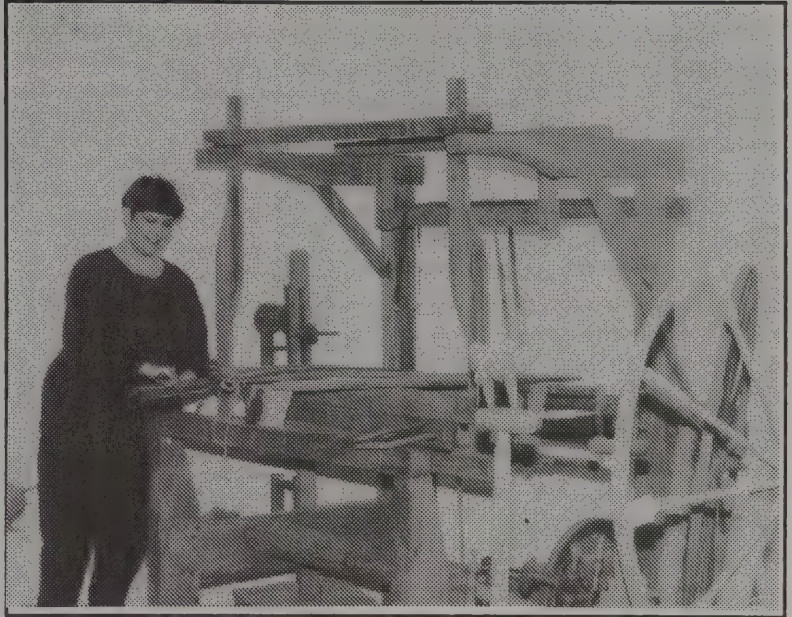
Francis Marion Ross, Jasper's first postmaster, homesteaded the 40 acres that includes the house site in 1848. There is no record of how the property passed from him to succeeding owner, but in 1889 D. Phillips deeded the whole 40 acres to John and Mary Brasel. In August, 1892, the Brasels deeded the land to Cora's father. The purchase price was about \$75. In 1905, after the death of J.B. Moss and the probate of his will, the house was deeded to the Bradleys and they lived there until 1945 when Dr. Bradley closed his practice and moved to Harrison.

Currently under construction on the museum property and located directly behind the Bradley House is another historic home, the Cheney house. A double pen, two-story log structure with a breezeway through the middle, it was built near Carrollton between 1836 and 1840 by James Chism Cheney. Born in Kentucky, he came to the Ozarks in 1834 and settled on Osage Creek.

James and his brother-in-law, donated the land for the town of Osage and James built the first jail at Carrollton, which was burned to the ground during the Civil War. The Cheney House survived the war and probably served as the Carrollton post office when James' son was named postmaster. It was also probably a stop on the stage route since James was a horse trader and blacksmith with facilities for a stage stop.

The house was inhabited until sometime in the 1980s, but it had been substantially altered, with an ell added and siding put over the enormous logs, which a University of Arkansas scientist estimates came from trees that started growing about 1600. The covering saved the logs from deterioration, however, and when Don Stanley of Jasper bought the old house four years ago he found the logs were still solid. Don carefully tore down the old house, numbering each rock from the fireplace and each log and board of the whip-sawed floor.

Last year, the Historical Society purchased the house from the Stanleys and, with Don's supervision, it is being carefully reconstructed. When completed it will stand as a tribute to an Ozark heritage of fine craftsmanship and durability. In the meantime, it offers an excellent opportunity to view the steps in construction of an original log home, one that was a landmark in its day.



Toinette Lackey, museum hostess, displays a hand made loom crafted in the mid-1800s.



The Cheney House under construction

Grandfather's Tales

• Othar Harp used to say, "we hunted in hollows so deep the dogs had to wag their tails up and down instead of sideways." One of Columbus Vaughn's favorite stories was of tending a trap line early one December morning before school. He went out in the good white shirt he intended to wear to school and without a jacket because the day was balmy. His path took him through a tree-high jungle of saw briars and only by carefully stooping, twisting and turning was he able to work his way through to the trap in the entanglement. When he got there, he found the trap and the stout stick to which it had been fastened missing. Just as he straightened up to move on, a bloodcurdling scream rent the morning air and a large body lunged within inches of his throat. Fortunately the drag caught and held. "But I had no drag fastened to me and, leaving white flags of torn shirt, I tore my way into open country, arms and face bleeding." He ran all the way home and his father returned with a .22 and killed a large bobcat.

• Some young men at Mt. Judea knew a certain resident was afraid of ghosts and would be walking home after dark, so they hatched a plan to scare him. Taking a white sheet with them, they found a spot along the road where they could hide behind a big rock. When their unsuspecting victim came by, one of the boys draped the sheet over himself and jumped out. The poor man immediately raced off down the road, with the ghost right behind him. When the man could go no farther, he fell down in the road and lay there panting. The ghost came running up and dropped beside him. "Boy, that was some race we had," the ghost puffed. "Yes," the man gasped, "and as soon as I get my breath, we're going to have another!"

• One of photographer Townsend Godsey's favorite stories was about the new resident of Heaven who was being given a tour by St. Peter. On their walk, they came upon a man chained hand and foot to an enormous rock. The shocked newcomer asked St. Peter how such a thing could happen in Heaven. Sadly, the good saint replied, "He lived his whole life in the Ozarks and right now its spring down there. This is the only way we can stop him from going back when the dogwoods and redbuds bloom."

• J. Town Greenhaw remembered an early settler on Cave Creek, Uncle Tom Hale, a red-headed Irishman who had the brogue on his tongue. Greenhaw wrote Walter Lackey, "I have heard Uncle Tom relate several times how they built a raft on which to cross the Mississippi River and all landed safely on the Arkansas side. This was the day before the night when the memorable heavenly display of falling stars took place in October, 1833. This caused them to be greatly confused and most of the party wanted to

return to their homes and it took much persuasion to get them satisfied and to continue their travel in what is now

Newton County. I have heard him tell of taking his flintlock rifle and walking to Batesville in Independence County to get his mail and how he performed his duty as constable in a large portion of East Carroll County, which at that time included Boone and Newton County, and did it on foot with his dog and flintlock rifle."

• Perhaps the divisiveness of the Civil War is nowhere more poignantly illustrated than in the story Oza Crow told of her grandfathers. They were neighbors who lived across the road from each other at Pruitt and the day they saddled up to go to war, they rode out together. When they reached the main road, one turned north and joined the Union Army at Springfield, Missouri. The other

turned south and took a gray uniform at Little Rock.

• Shirley Banther tells this story of her grandfather Rollie and his brother Orson, who lived just across the spring from each other on Sloan Mountain: There was an old lady who lived high on the mountain above the two Sloan brothers and who always stopped to pass the night on her way back from trips to town.. One day Rollie and Orson were in the fields and saw the old lady ride past. Orson remarked Rollie could expect to "have the old lady tonight", but this time she didn't stop.. Rollie couldn't pass up the opportunity to pull a joke on Orson, so he and the children and his wife Rozetta made a dummy and dressed her in one of "Zett's" dresses and bonnets and put her in the rocker on the porch. Shirley's dad, Ivan, was sent to call Orson, the mountain's self-proclaimed "doc" to come quick because the old lady was dying. It was getting pretty dark when Orson came on the run and grabbed the old lady's hand to feel her pulse. He couldn't find one, so he started massaging her arms and yelling for a lantern and for all the medicine "Zett" had in the house. The boys pretended they couldn't find a lantern as long as they could stall, then discovered it was out of kerosene. "Zett", meanwhile, kept proclaiming if they took the lantern off her table, she would never find the medicine. Out on the porch, all the girls lined up and prayed loudly for the old lady while Orson frantically fanned her with his hat. The hoax was only discovered when Orson became so excited that he knocked over the rocking chair. While it was several days before Orson got over the joke, Rollie's whole family could hardly sleep that night for breaking into laughter. "Such a joke would seem silly and hardly worth talking about today," Shirley said, "but in the early days of the century this was entertainment in it's highest form: a good laugh after a hard day."



What's in a name?

Jasper

No one really knows where Jasper got its name and some have suggested that it comes from the green color of the waters of the Little Buffalo River, but Frank Villines told a colorful story that has become a favorite explanation. It seems the early settlers of the area had been well treated by the Cherokees who were in the area when they arrived and when they heard about the hardships on the Trail of Tears, they resolved to return the kindness they had been shown. They went out to meet the Indians, many of whom were cold, hungry and sick. They shared their food, shelter and medicines, opening their homes so the Cherokees could stop and hunt, gather herbs, and recuperate. As the visitors were preparing to move on, the local residents, who had been unable to agree on a name for their new village, invited the Cherokee to help them decide. Chief John Ross, according to the story told by "Uncle" Frank, went up into the hills and prayed for many hours about the question. When he returned, he said the name should be Jasper. "Jasper," the chief said, "is a hard and strong stone, lighted from inside by love. It is like the men of this ridge, strong men, good men, lighted from within by love."

Newton

Newton County was the 47th created in the state and was named for Thomas Willoughby Newton, who was United States Marshal for Arkansas at the time. Newton was born in Alexandria, Virginia in 1893 and came to Arkansas Post, which was then the capital of the newly-created Arkansas Territory in 1818. He soon accepted a position as a mail carrier, serving a route from Arkansas Post to Caldron on horseback. Newton County was created out of part of Carroll County on December 14, 1842. Archibald Yell was governor at the time.

Many Newton County communities were simply named after their first postmaster. Among these, and the dates they were established, are Arbaugh (Mrs. Rebecca Arbaugh) March 2, 1928; Carver (Pembroke Carver) November 25, 1913; Cassville (Thomas H. Cass) January 10, 1868; Compton (John T. Compton) April 8, 1887; Cowell (Joab A. Cowell) May 3, 1902; Killgore (Jackson Killgore) October 23, 1891; Wilcockson (now Dogpatch) September 24, 1883 (Mander Wilcockson); Murray (William F. Murray) April 28, 1884; Ryker (Jacob A. Ryker) December 27, 1897; Snow (Calvin H. Snow) March 21, 1892; and Wayton (Lois A. Way) November 26, 1895.

Vendor

Dr. Silas Shruggs Stacey, who is also credited with having a hand in naming Yardelle, reportedly suggested the name Vendor to Ephraim Greenhaw for the community on Big Creek where a post office was established on October 29, 1889 with Greenhaw as postmaster. Dr. Stacey had started a trading post and health resort at a sulphur spring on Big Creek and chose the name Vendor, meaning a seller of goods, as representative of his hopes to build it into a strong trade center.

Dr. Silas Shruggs Stacey was born in Kentucky in 1829. He grew up in Douglas County, Missouri and lived after his marriage at Sparta. In 1874, when his health began to fail, he began seeking some treatment that would help him and found the Sulphur Mountain Spring near Mt. Judea. He moved there and began to study the curative value of mineral water, which he claimed restored his health. He was also an advocate of using wild plants and roots, and gathered them himself and compounded them using recipes he never shared with anyone else. One of the plants he used was yarrow and some speculate he chose the name for Yardell by combining the words "yarrow" and "dell". However, others maintain the name comes from a large tanning yard once operated there by Eb Wallace and comes from the combination of the words "yard" and "dell".

Mt. Judea

A lot of local communities got names chosen from the Bible or associated with lands of the Bible. For instance, Mt. Judea, Ben Hur, Shiloh and Parthenon all have some connection to ancient times and locations. The first white settlers of Mt. Judea were Ephraim Greenhaw and John Nichols and Greenhaw reportedly chose the name from the Bible.

Some local communities began their history with names that were somewhat unflattering. Fallsville was known in earlier days as Loafers Glory because it was the stopping off point for men and boys on their way down from the mountains to pick cotton along the Arkansas River bottoms to earn some cash money. Salus, too, would seem to have had an image problem with its first name, Devil's Knob.

Hasty Ridge, later shortened to Hasty, drew its name because of a sudden flood of settlers that followed the opening of a grist mill; families who moved in and built hastily.

Of course some places took their names from geographical features. The reason for the selection of Marble Falls, Falling Water and Red Rock are easily found in the surrounding terrain.

Ponca

Addison Villines, an early settler of western Newton County, once owned all the land where Ponca stands. he sold it to O.P. Wymer, who then sold it to the Ponca City, Oklahoma Mining Company. They subdivided the land and plotted city lots. With a few years, the narrow valley was dotted by homes and miner's cabins. Several stores, a smithy, a saw mill, grist mill and three story hotel opened for business. The post office was established in 1903 and for nearly 50 years the town, named after the mining company that made it boom, produced tons of lead ore.

Sometimes there is a musical sound to the names or a touch of whimsy and that is nowhere more apparent than in the names of long-closed rural schools in the county, names like Flat Rock, Lone Beach, Lick Creek, Macedonia, Hurricane, Elk Horn, Ben's Branch, and Valley View. What's in a name? Many, many things, but always a sound treasured by those who call the place home.

Digging a Little Deeper

by Gene Waters

The Ozarks are among the oldest mountain ranges on the planet and primitive man arrived here more than 7,500 years ago to inhabit the bluff shelters and caves so numerous to this area and built wattle and daub houses along the banks of the many streams in what is now known as Newton County.

Wild game such as deer, elk, buffalo, bear and wild turkey abounded in the milder sub-tropical summer and mild winter climate, providing these people ample food and clothing and a variety of fruits and nuts for their taking. Bones of extinct animals such as the Columbian Mammoth and Peccary have been found in the county but no evidence, to date, has indicated direct contact with the early people living here.

Agriculture appeared later and the cultivation of corn became common throughout the area and the people relied less heavily on hunting and gathering until they subsisted almost entirely on this sweet product of the fields. Corn was ground into meal using sandstone metates, or grinding bowls, and the sand got into the meal and wore away the Indian's teeth, causing severe tooth loss at an early age. Midden deposits in the shelters and caves yield corn cobs, projectile points, bones of food animals and the burials themselves. Some caves have deposits as deep as seventeen feet, indicating thousands of years of occupation.

The Indian population was always sparse in this area with never more than one or two families living in any one place. No large villages are found and little or no evidence is noted of warfare. These were simple people living a subsistence life.

Hernando DeSoto was the first European to enter Arkansas, doing so in June of 1541. Although he never saw the Ozarks, he inquired of the Tunica Indians (whom he met at a village near the city of Parkin) and was told by them that the area to the north and west was sparsely populated by a nomadic people and that it was a cold climate.

The Ozark's Indians had, for the most part, abandoned this area long before the Europeans arrived due to a long period of drought that existed around the year 1200. This dry period may have lasted for over one hundred years. Remnants of clothing found in the top layers of the dry bluff shelters in Newton and surrounding counties are made from Yucca fibers, a desert dwelling plant. A dry climate would indicate difficulty in growing corn and the migration of wild animals to other areas. The people simply moved away, seeking a better life, leaving their abandoned homes for modern man to explore and ponder centuries later.



A typical Ozarks bluff shelter

Local Chapter of AAS Welcomes Visitors

The Ozark Chapter of the Arkansas Archeological Society was formed last year and meets monthly in the conference room at the Newton County Library. Meetings are on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. Anyone who is interested in the study and preservation of Arkansas Ozark cultural history is welcome to attend.

Besides the regular meeting, the Ozark Chapter of AAS hosts workshops on topics such as site preservation and sponsors an Archeology Day in the spring with demonstrations, exhibits and informational literature. Anyone interested in these special activities is invited to participate.

For more information on the Ozark Chapter, you can call 501-741-7408.



We Made It Ourselves

Those who first settled Newton County had little access to the outside world and they needed to be self-reliant. As a consequence, they developed skills that have been handed down through their families for generations. Although knowing how to make your own household goods may not be essential to today's homeowners, the crafts remain treasured because of the beauty, creativity and utility of the hand-crafted furniture, quilts and baskets of an earlier era.

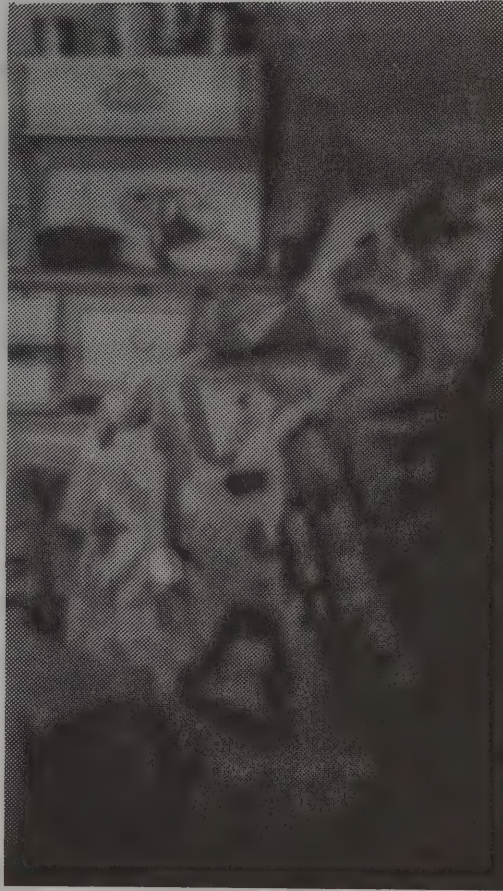
You'll find a wide variety of handcrafted baskets made from white oak splints as they were when ancestors needed them for gathering eggs, carrying out the washing, or packing lunches for those in the fields. The baskets are traditional designs and many feature "Cherokee curls", the decorative loops of dyed wood around the center.

Young, good quality white oak timber, 8-10 inches in diameter, is cut into lengths and widths needed and planed then clamped in a vise and splints are pulled with drawing knives. Pulling splints is simply drawing the knife the length of the board to shave a long thin strip. These vary in thickness and width according to how they will be used.

Next a handful of splints is selected, always an equal number, to be used as the ribs of the basket. A nail hole is made in the center and they are threaded on, then the nail is pushed into the bottom of a form, often a bucket. Narrow strips to form a tight bottom for the basket are worked over and under the ribs around the form then the ribs are folded down and secured to the top of the bucket and weaving starts on the sides. After the sides are started, the basket comes off the form. After the weaving is done, the basket must sit at least 8 hours to dry then the ends of the handle are worked down into it and two bands are fitted around the top and laced into place.

Weaving skills also come in handy when making the ladder-back kitchen chairs, cane-bottomed rockers, and stools, still made by a few craftsmen in Newton County. They've been purchased by folks from every state in the Union and even some foreign countries and one is on display in the Smithsonian.

Oak is cut into slats and posts. Using techniques honed by generations of chairmakers, posts are turned "free-hand" then boiled in water for 45 minutes before being put to rest for 72 hours. Dowels are dried (one chairmaker uses his kitchen oven) and a mortise and tenon joint fits posts and rounds together. This is shaping the projecting end or tenon to fit the mortise of the posts. A wooden mallet is used to drive them together. The rounds are dry, but the



posts still have moisture in them and shrink to make a tight join. No nails, screws or glue is used in the chairs. A drawing knife is used to make long strips of hickory inner bark to weave the seats. Weaving is started by notching one end of the strip and cutting a slit a few inches further so that the end fits like a key in a keyhole. This is wrapped around the side post and pulled tight and then weaving begins. First, strips are placed across the width of the seat from one direction, then they are woven back and forth in an alternating pattern from the other direction. After the seats are caned, they stand for 24 hours to dry.

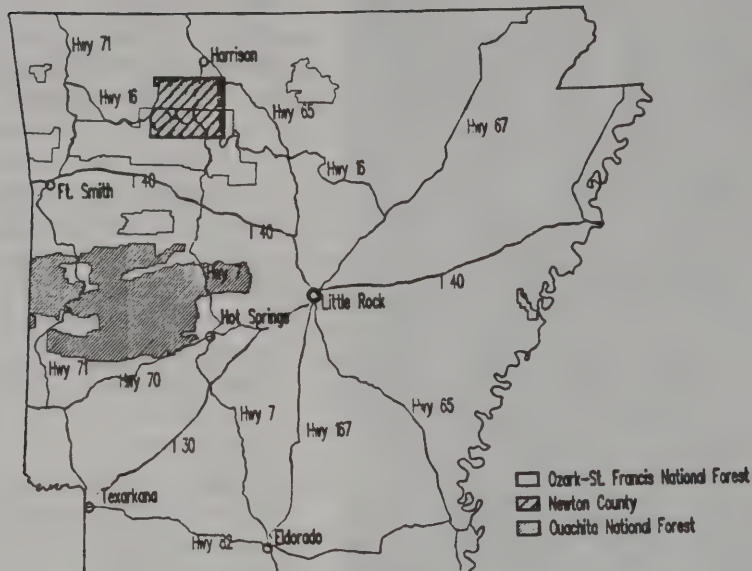
Molasses, or as most folks still call it, sorghum, was the sweetener for everything from cakes to coffee for those who had no access to refined sugar. Although a few still know how to make it and the Rusty Wheels Old Engine Club cooks molasses every fall, this old skill appears to be the closest to becoming a lost art. Paul Martin, who does the cooking for the engine club said he

could find no one to teach him when he started cooking it and had to learn by trial and error, using the little bit of knowledge he remembered from helping at the cookings as a boy.

The process begins by crushing the cane to extract the juice. Traditionally, this was done using a molasses mill or grinding stone turned by a horse or mule hitched to a long pole. Some now use the tractor PTO to turn the mill. The juice is frothy and light green, looking like celery pureed in a blender. It is gradually introduced into the pan, which is about three feet wide, six inches deep and 8 feet long. It has dividers all along its length with openings on the opposite end so that, as the juice is heated, it moves in long slow s-curves. A furnace is built under the pans, a long fire box with a big opening on the beginning end to provide lots of heat, a narrower center opening and then a large opening again at the other end to provide draft. Feeding the fire for a cooking is demanding and hot job. As the juice is cooked in the pan, it forms a foam which is dipped off and discarded, using slotted brass skimmers on long wooden handles. The cook uses a "rake", a wooden block, to help move the sorghum along or slow it down. The ripeness of the cane, the kind of ground it is grown on, the amount of moisture during the growing season are all factors that can affect the outcome. If all goes well, you finally turn the tap at the end of the pan and out pours a thick, golden sweet. Any good jelly maker can tell when its done by the same kind of big dry bubble that releases a tiny puff of steam.

Newton County

the heart of the Ozark Mountains



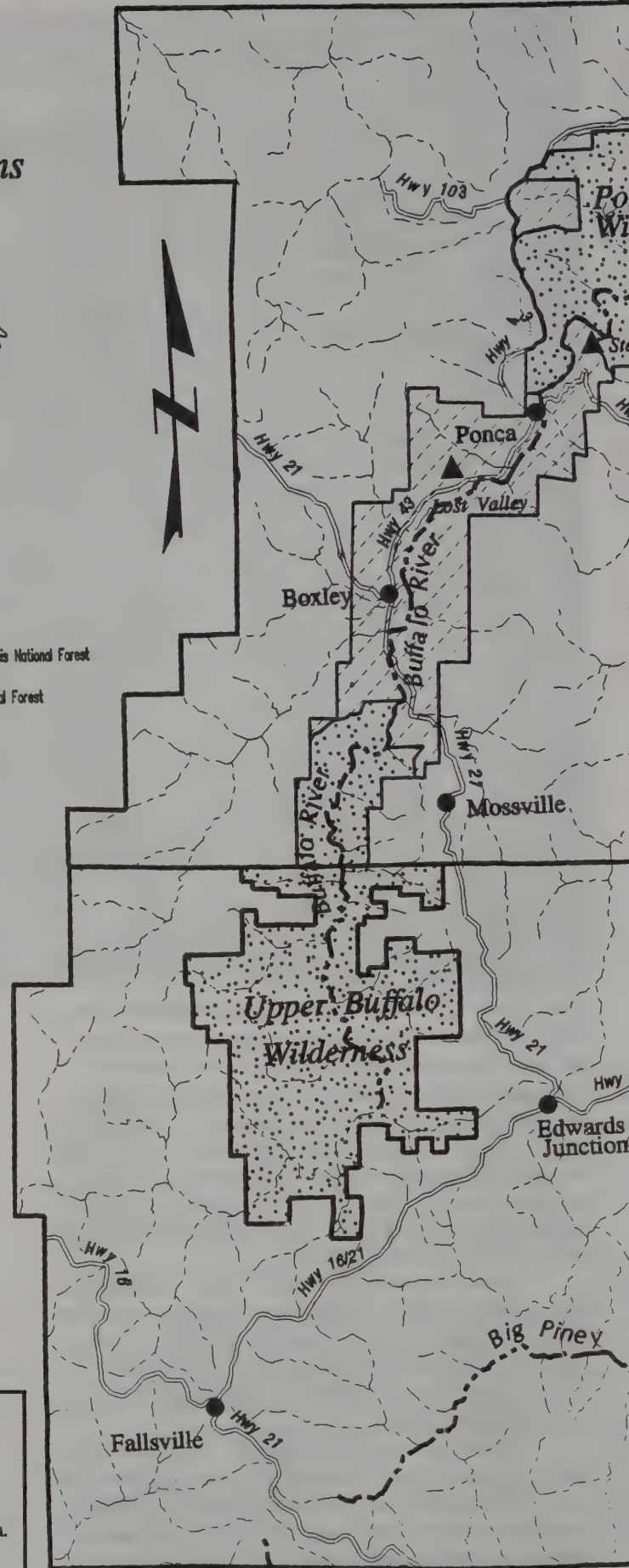
- Primary Roads
- Streams
- Ozark National Forest and Buffalo National River Wilderness Areas
- United States Park Service Buffalo National River
- Campgrounds and/or Recreation Areas

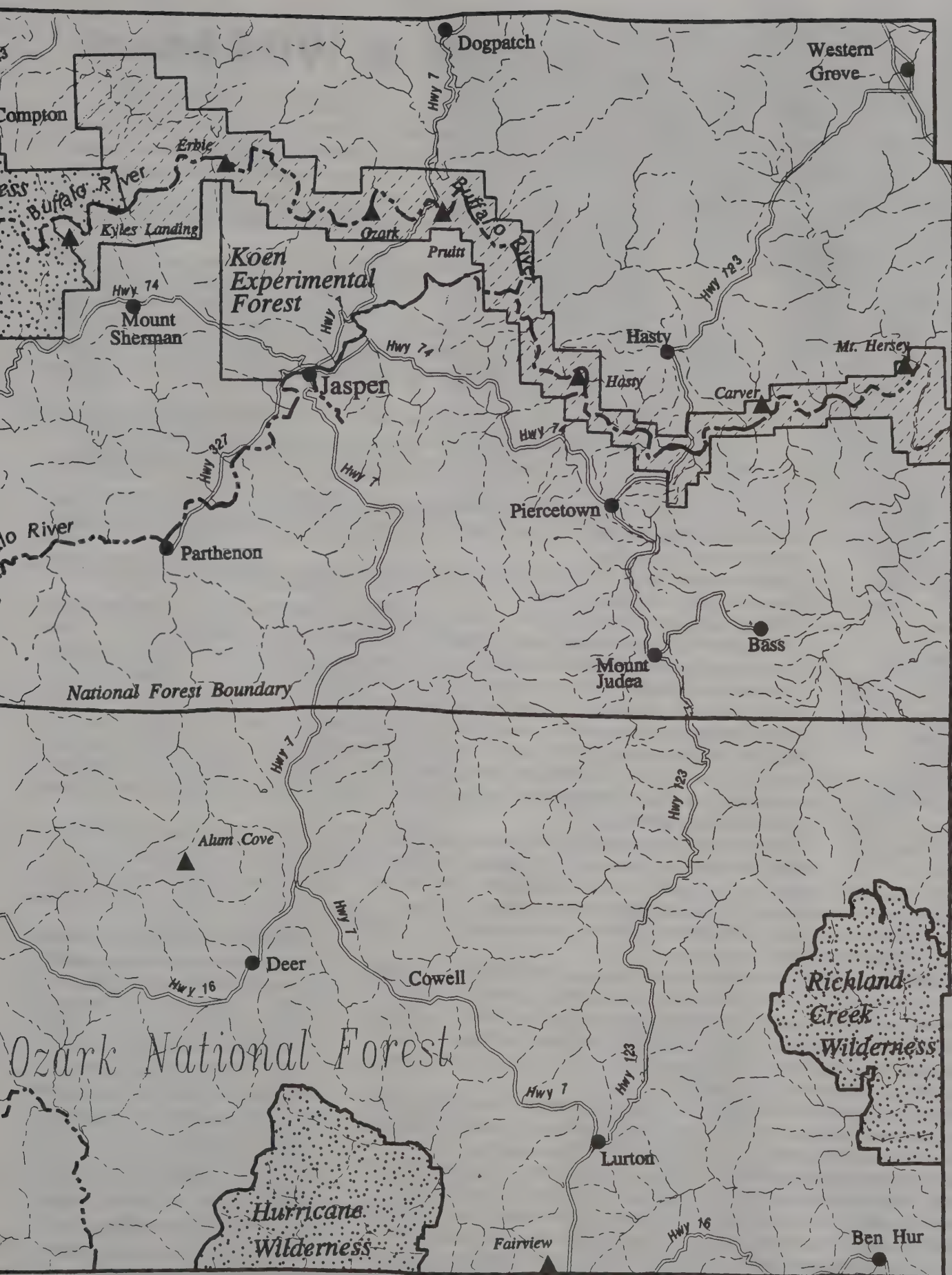
NCRC



This map was produced in cooperation between the Buffalo Ranger District and the Newton County Resource Council to help Newton County promote ecotourism.

June 3, 1995





Here's A Wild Idea!

Love hunting? There's plenty of opportunity to indulge. Pick up and follow the General Hunting Regulations furnished free wherever hunting licenses are sold and at ranger stations, park service offices and other local outlets. You can also obtain one by writing Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, #2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72205.

Arkansas hunters can enjoy hunting variety, taking bows, crossbows, muzzle-loaders, pistols, rifles and shotguns to the woods and fields for small game, deer, waterfowl and black bear. For complete information on hunting seasons, licenses, hunting zones, special rules pertaining to Wildlife Management Areas and general regulations, you will need a current copy of AG&FC Commissions' regulations, which become available each year in June. However, some general information can help you plan your hunting excursions well in advance.

Small game seasons include quail, mid to late winter (about December-February); rabbit, fall to mid-winter; and two squirrel seasons, a spring season from about mid-May to mid-June and a fall season which varies by zone and is usually from early September through February in the northern part of the state.

Furbearing animal trapping and hunting season opens in mid-November and closes in mid-February, with raccoon hunting excepted. Raccoon hunters, who can use .22 shot ammunition only, have a slightly longer season.

Coyote season, changed in 1994-95, opens in early fall and extends to late spring. There is no limit and dogs can be used in the final months.

There are gun seasons for wild turkey in both the spring and the fall. There is also a fall archery/crossbow season for most of the state. Restrictions on shot and weapons are in the regulations.

The hunting zone for black bear extends over most of the northwest part of the state and opens in late fall for archery/crossbow hunters and in late December for muzzle-loader hunters. In between, there is a regular gun season. The bag limit is one and baiting and the use of dogs are prohibited. While not specifically prohibited, the Game and Fish Commission encourages hunters to refrain from shooting sows with cubs and cubs which are under 100 pounds. Since the re-introduction to Arkansas of 200 black bears in the late 1950s and early 1960s, the black bear population has grown to over 2,500 bears. The program to reintroduce the bear to Arkansas has been described as the most successful large mammal reintroduction program in North America.

Perhaps the most-anticipated hunting seasons of all are the seasons for deer. Arkansas hunters spent 5.5 million days afield involved in hunting various game animals in 1991 and many of those days were spent

in pursuit of a big buck. Most of Newton County is in deer hunting Zone 2 and can plan on a mid- to late-November gun season. That part in Zone 5 and the neighboring Zone 6 usually have a slightly longer gun season. Archery and crossbow seasons run from mid-fall to late winter in this area. Watch for muzzleloading season opening about the last week in October and continuing until late December.

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission owns and manages over 325,000 acres of land that provides valuable habitat for all wildlife as well as hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities for the public. Special permit hunts are offered on the Wildlife Management Areas, including the Gene Rush WMA in eastern Newton County. Applications are usually due in June and winners of drawings for the permits are notified in August. More information is available by calling or writing AG&FC.

Licenses range around \$25-35 for residents of the state. Annual all-game non-resident licenses and five day and three day non-resident trip licenses are available. Licenses may be purchased by mail and you can call 1-800-364-GAME for information.

Since beginning the Arkansas Hunter Education Course in 1971, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission has certified over 250,000 graduates. In 1993, over 1300 volunteer hunter education instructors taught over 1,142 classes to over 20,000 students. It's all part of an effort to keep Arkansas hunters safe to enjoy the outdoors for years to come.

Finally, there is a special hotline number to call to report game violations. Violators are not sportsmen and they steal from every legal hunter. Rewards up to \$500 are offered for information resulting in a citation being issued for game and fish violations. The number to call is 1-800-482-9262.

Information Hot Lines

(For information not covered, call the AG&FC at (501) 223-6300)

DIAL (501) 688-8000

When asked, press the desired 4-digit code

4250 - Big Game Seasons

4251 - Small Game Seasons

4252 - Fishing Information

4254 - Hunter Education

4255 - License Information

4259 - Current Events

For help or additional information, press 4

How The Elk Came Home

One hundred years ago, elk roamed the mid-western plains and the southern mountain region, making their home in the grasslands as far south and east as northern Alabama. Settlers who discovered the rich lands in the mid-1800s pushed the elk westward into the rougher terrain of the Rockies, but today the big animals are making a comeback in at least one area of their former domain.

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission made an agreement with the Colorado Department of Natural Resources in 1980 to trade Arkansas large-mouth bass for this noble member of the deer family and now Newton County has an elk herd conservatively estimated at about 250 animals.

The herd was officially named the Hilary Jones Elk Herd in honor of a commission member from Pruitt who instigated the program. An avid elk hunter, Jones hoped someday there would be a local season.

In March, 1981, the first trailer load of Colorado elk was delivered to Newton County. Over the next three years, several more loads were brought, along with seven elk that were a gift from a park in Nebraska. During that time, the new herd reached an estimated 45 in number, but the winter of 1985 was to prove the exciting one for elk enthusiasts. Local volunteers raced winter storms across the great plains to bring back seven loads containing 74 new elk. They were unloaded in various locations along the Buffalo National River and for the most part the elk have stayed close to the river bottom fields.

Bobby Harrison of Jasper is one of the volunteers who helped bring back elk. "They're mean, wild and stout," Harrison said. The volunteers took gooseneck cattle trailers lined with plywood sheets to pick up their cargo. "If there was a small crack they could see through, they'd go for it. At night, the car lights coming up behind us and shining through the cracks really startled them."

Harrison described how the trapping worked. Colorado authorities built corrals from ten foot tall sections of fence with heavy duty steel pipe frames and nylon mesh fencing, which prevents injury when the animals run into it trying to escape. The panels are fastened together and formed into large circular pens. A built-in squeeze chute provides access to the animals for shots, blood tests, and aging after they are trapped and is also used for loading the trailers.

Colorado wildlife officers used man-high shields built of plywood to hold up in front of them when they went into the pens to work the elk into the chutes. Occasionally,



an angry elk would turn on the trappers and attack the shield with flashing front hooves.

The volunteers donated their time and equipment only partly because of hunting considerations. "A lot of people here would never get a chance to see them if we hadn't brought them in," Harrison said. "I'm just tickled to death with the way they're doing and with having them here."

Elk are vigorous and hardy and they are browsers who can find plenty of food in places where deer cannot. The elk eat grass, hardwood and conifer brush and some rough weeds deer won't touch.

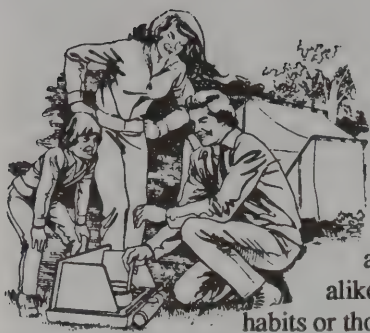
Their mating season is in the fall, usually October, and is characterized by a far-reaching bugle call sounded by the bulls which descends the scale to a low rumble. The massive animals, which may stand five feet high at the shoulder and weigh from 600 to 1000 pounds, also fight extensively during the season, facing each other from 20 feet apart and charging with lowered head. Although serious injury is rare, the massive antlers, which spread from three to five feet with five to seven points on each side, have been known to become hopelessly locked, causing both bulls to die of starvation.

A word of caution:
Elk are unpredictable wild animals and they are big and strong. While some of the local elk have become very accustomed to having people around and appear to pay no attention, watchers should maintain a safe distance.

The gestation period for the cow is 249 to 269 days and the calves are dropped in May or June. Calves are light colored with white spots. Multiple births do occur, but are rare than in other deer species.

The elk are the second largest member of the deer family. The moose is the largest.

After a hundred year absence, the elk are finding they fit well, after all, with descendants of those who once pushed them westward.



Be A Perfect Camper

Each year, more Americans discover the joy of camping, but often novices and experienced campers alike bring with them bad habits or thoughtlessness that leave evidence behind that is damaging to the environment and disgusting to the campers that follow them.

The perfect camper, therefore, is the one who takes the time to learn a few simple skills to make as few changes as possible to the areas he uses. He leaves behind no trace of his passing because he respects both the beauty and ecology of the area and the campers who may come after him.

Since 1965, the National Outdoor Leadership School has pioneered the teaching and development of practical conservation techniques designed to minimize impact. These conservation practices are now incorporated into the national Leave No Trace education program. The basic principles are:

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Concentrate Impacts in High Use Areas
- Spread use and Impact in Pristine Areas
- Avoid Places Where Impact is Just Beginning
- Pack it in, Pack it out
- Properly Dispose of What you Cannot Pack Out
- Leave What You Find
- Use Fire Responsibly

Becoming a perfect camper takes a little preparation. Begin by reviewing your expectations of your camping trip. This will help you prepare. If you are going to an area that sees little use, you should be ready for stringent Leave No Trace techniques for pristine areas. However, if you're going to a popular campgrounds, you should stay in existing camp sites. Repackage food into reusable containers or plastic bags to reduce trash to be disposed of. Take the proper equipment for the location and season. Lightweight campstoves and water carrying containers allow flexibility to camp in the most impact resistant sites. Resisting bright colors will make you less obtrusive to others. Keep your group size small, fewer than 10 for camp sites and four for hiking groups. If you want real solitude, avoid holidays and weekends.

To concentrate impact in high use areas, respect is a key word. Show your respect for others in the area by keeping your party small, traveling quietly, behaving appropriately. Respect the wildlife by being careful to disturb them as little as possible, staying downwind when stopping for a photo or better look, and giving the animals plenty of space. When using constructed trails, stay on them to minimize disturbance. No short-cutting or stepping out around puddles for the perfect camper! Move off the trail to a durable

spot such as a rock ledge or sandy beach for your rest breaks and select a camp site that is so highly impacted that further careful use will not cause more damage.

In the pristine areas, you can spread use and impact by keeping your group small, choosing a campsite that has no vegetation or durable vegetation cover away from trails and streams, avoid walking back and forth on the same areas repeatedly and wear soft shoes around camp. When breaking camp, take time to naturalize the site. Cover scuffed areas with native materials, brush out footprints and rake matted grass with a stick. Hike on durable surfaces, such as bedrock, sand or gravel, or snow, if you can. If not, spread out so everyone doesn't step on the same spot.

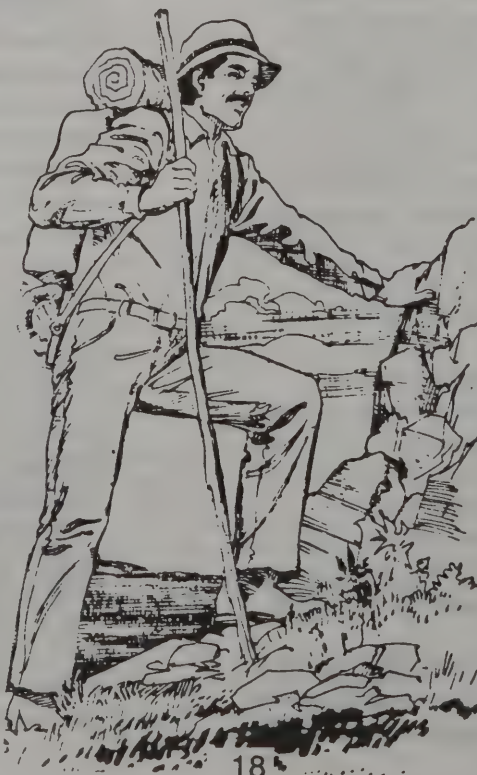
Most campsites can stand a little use, but once impact begins, avoid that site. If you can easily spot signs of previous use, the area is not regenerating itself fast enough to keep up with use.

Pack it in, pack it out means don't drop it, don't bury it, don't burn it. If you brought it in, carry it out. You can plan ahead to minimize your trash. Think of this as a challenge to be met. Can you pass through the wilderness as skillfully as warriors of old who couldn't be tracked?

Leave what you find. It may not seem significant to pick a few wildflowers, but if everyone who passes does it, the seed for next year may be lost. Take photos or make sketches instead of taking the original. All natural objects - rocks, antlers, interesting wood - should be left for others to enjoy.

The use of campfires was once a necessity and is steeped in history and tradition, but campfires leave ugly scars and a new attitude is developing that makes a lightweight camp stove a necessity. When using fires be sure wind conditions and overall fire danger factors are favorable, use only down and dead wood, build only on bedrock or sandy areas and clean and restore the site.

Disposing of what you can't pack out includes proper disposal of human waste to avoid contamination of water. Choose locations far from water, campsites and trails. Be sure your site is inconspicuous, where other people will be unlikely to walk or camp. With a garden trowel, dig a "cathole" 6-8 inches deep and 4-6 inches in diameter. For more than a short stay or for young children, you may need to dig a latrine. To speed decomposition and diminish odors, toss in a handful of soil after each use. Use only plain white, non-perfumed toilet paper and either thoroughly bury it or carry it out. Fish viscera and food waste should be safely downwind and spread widely.



CAN YOU WALK FROM HERE?

There are many hiking trails in Newton County, and we've mentioned them elsewhere in this magazine, but there are also a lot of places for a pleasant evening stroll and places where you can walk for exercise after a long day of driving or sitting at a desk and, at the same time, have interesting surroundings and something to see.

We've picked a few of these spots to describe in detail, but you can find more on your own or you can get a county map from the clerk's office in the Newton County courthouse, a map of Forest Service roads from the Buffalo Ranger District headquarters on Highway 7 North at Jasper, or maps of the Buffalo National River, including topographical maps, from Park Service headquarters in Harrison or from the Pruitt Ranger Station.

The National Forest is honeycombed with quiet country roads and old logging trails that are suitable for casual walkers and provide a superb location for wildlife watching, identifying flowers and trees, studying geology, or just enjoying the views.

If you want to walk a few laps for exercise, the Newton County fairgrounds, one mile south of Jasper, is a good location. Since it's in a high location, there's usually a cool breeze on summer evenings. The view from the rodeo arena is pretty and it's a good place to stargaze, too.

Bradley Park in Jasper is another good walking place. To reach the park, turn west at the Conoco station on the highway and follow the street to the end. Because it is cradled in a bend in the river, it also is generally cool in the evenings. Many nights during the summer, you can stop to watch a softball game at the park, too.

Why not just stroll around Jasper? Some of the interesting buildings you can see were done by Jasper resident Gould Jones, an artisan with native stone. These include the Church of Christ on Highway 7 South, the big stone building on the northwest corner of the Jasper square, and the one near the waterwheel on Highway 7 North. Bradley Museum is located four blocks west of the square and the historic Cheney log house is being reconstructed right behind it. From there,



cut around the Baptist Church to reach the school grounds. Children walking with you will enjoy a stop to play on the playground. At the end of the school grounds is Little Bluff, a favorite swimming hole for local folks and a picturesque spot on the Little Buffalo River. For an extended walk, you can follow the river back to the bridge on the north edge of town.

Those who drive by Western Grove on US 65 and think they've seen the town have missed the charming part. A walk from the shopping center on the south end of town along the business route around to the old truck stop on the north end is a gently sloped stroll that will give you a much clearer picture of this lovely community.

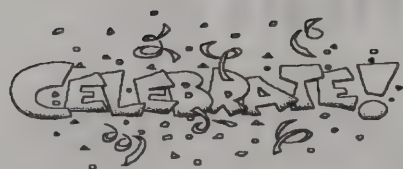
At Pruitt, five miles north of Jasper, there are some marked hiking trails, but there's also a little known road that is a perfect walk. Turn off on the north side of the bridge and take the road down across Mill Creek. Watch closely for the first turn to the right and park there, then walk out to Shaddox Cemetery and look for the double tombstone of two soldiers shot by bushwhackers during the Civil War.

Do watch for cars if you choose to walk through Parthenon, but don't let that stop you from enjoying a stroll from the old Shelton General Store downtown along the road to the left and up the hill to the site where the old Parthenon Academy once stood. You'll find remains of the old building which once served as the only high school in the county.

If you need a few minutes break from driving and you're traveling on Highway 7 South, turn onto Highway 16 and stop at Alum Cove. Even if the hiking trail is too strenuous, you can enjoy the wildflowers and trees and do some birdwatching just strolling around the picnic area by the parking lot.

Remember when you're walking to respect private property. Don't litter. Don't pick. And don't trespass. Now, having laid down the rules, let us encourage you to stop and visit or at least to greet the folks you see along the way with a friendly hello. It's part of the fun of the slow pace and we're sure they'll make you feel welcome on the pathways of Newton County.





Where's The Fun?

Festivals, Special Events, Tours - Come Join Us!

June First Weekend

Ozark Mountain Region Annual Bicycle Challenge - Harrison, Jasper, Ponca loop. Fee. For more information call Ozark Mountain Region Association, 1-800-544-MTNS or 453-8563.

Guided Canoe Float with National Park Service. Learn about geology and river life along the float from Pruitt to Hasty Low Water Bridge. Bring canoe, food and drink. Meet at the lower Pruitt Launch at 9 a.m. Call 741-5443, ext. 132 for information.

Second Weekend

North Arkansas Rusty Wheels Old Engine Club 17th annual show - Antique steam engines and tractors, antique car swap meet, antique grist mill and saw mill in operation. Food, flea market, arts and crafts, tractor pull and benefit auction. Camping available. Opens each day at 8 a.m. \$2 fee. Six miles south of Harrison on Hwy. 65. For information call 743-1511, 741-1015 or 429-5523.

Last Weekend

Upper Buffalo River Cleanup (Tentative) As the Buffalo subsides for the summer, volunteers and canoe concessioners take the lead in cleaning up the river one last time before the waters become too shallow to float. Call NPS headquarters, 741-5443, ext. 132 for more information.

Mid-June

National Park Service hosts Erbie Historic District Tour in Buffalo National River. During this 3 hour hike, visitors will explore the Parker-Hickman Farmstead, the Rufus Jones home, and the Erbie Church, and will hike 3/4 mile to scenic Goat Bluff. Bring a lunch for this 10 a.m. hike. Call 741-5443, ext. 132 for more information.

Free Ecotour - Tour and free lunch. Come join us in an ecotour site monitoring project. We will focus on a heavily impacted area, doing repairs and clean up to restore the site. Call 446-5898

July July 4

Deer VFD Annual Fourth of July Celebration - held on the Deer schoolgrounds, on Scenic Hwy. 16 just 2 miles west of Scenic Byway 7. Old fashioned Fourth of July celebration with plenty of food and ice cream. Bingo, cake walks, horseshoe tournament, turtle races and other games and contests for all ages. God country and gospel music for most of the day then, for the finale, a brilliant fireworks display. Call 428-5906 or 428-5433 for more information.

Sixth annual Fourth of July Celebration at Lost Valley Canoe and Lodging. Big fireworks display and exciting fun. Bring your lawn chairs and have a great time. Please do not bring personal fireworks. Call 861-5522 for more details.

Third Weekend

Arkansas Trail Riders Association Annual Fort Douglas Trail Ride sponsored by the Ridge Riders. Meet at Ft. Douglas, just south of Hwy. 16 east. Weekend camp out and trail ride. Call Annie at 861-5877 for additional information.

August

Last Weekend

Demolition Derby - Newton County Fairgrounds, Jasper. Excitement for the entire family. Entrant information call Larry at 446-5465. Ticket information call Connie at 861-5694

Week Before Labor Day

Newton County Fair and Rodeo, county fairgrounds, Jasper. Carnival, Kid's Day, truck pull, queen's contest,

parade, horse show, livestock show, parade. Contact Connie at 861-5694 or Janet at 446-2270

September

Weekend After Labor Day

Ponca Days, Ponca, Ar., parade, music, food, crafts, flea market. Bring your lawn chairs and have a good time. Contact Young Ott, 861-5846 or Kay House at 861-5578

Mid-September

8th Annual Buffalo River Trail Ride sponsored by Ridge Riders Saddle Club. Trail ride along the Buffalo National River. Meet and camp at Steel Creek off Hwy. 74 west of Jasper. For information call Annie at 861-5877.

Last Weekend

Forest Fest at Lost Valley Canoe in Ponca beginning at noon. Hosted by Newton County Wildlife Association. Children's games, arts and crafts, food, music, celebration of forest life. Everyone welcome. For information call 861-5600

Newton County Wildlife Association hosts the fifth annual Forest Reform Network Rally, working gathering of forest reform activities from around the county. Focus will be on changing USFS environmental policy. To register, call 861-5600 or 428-5597

October

First Weekend

Jasper Alumni Association Annual Reunion, 2 days of fun and reminiscing. Pot luck lunch at Bradley Park on Saturday. Information: Katherine at 446-2373

Newton County Round Up Club Ozark Timed Event Horse show at the county fairgrounds, Jasper, beginning at 2 p.m. Calf roping, goat tying, etc.

Mid-Month

Donkey Ballgame at Bradley Park. Enjoy a hilarious October afternoon in the park, beginning at 2 p.m. Information: NCSSC, 446-2682

Third Week

Annual Fall Color Tour, Jasper, 9 a.m. Buses leave from the Gazebo on the Jasper square, return at 2:30 p.m. Fee \$4. Bring a sack lunch. Call reservations to the Forest Service at 446-5122 or the county Extension Office, 446-2240. Sponsored by Jasper School, U.S. Forest Service, Buffalo Ranger District and the Newton County Beautification Committee.

North Scenic 7 Holiday Showcase featured at businesses on Scenic Byway 7 from I-40 at Russellville to the Boone County line. Crafts, art shows, music, book signings, food, costumes, literature. For more information, call Mert Parsons at 446-2739 or 428-5501 or write to P.O. Box 326, Jasper, AR 72641

October 31

Deer VFD Halloween Carnival - held at Deer Fire Station, Hwy. 16, 2 miles west of Highway 7. Lots of give-aways for kids. Pin the tail on the Goblin, Bobbing for Apples, lots of other games including the prize Haystack. Free! Contact Judy Davis, 428-5461.

December

First Weekend

Newton County Christmas Festival, Jasper. Caroling, craft booths, music, parade, restaurant sampler party, Chinese auction. Call 446-2373 or 446-2258

Call 501-446-2455 or write the Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 250, Jasper 72641 for exact dates of events.



Witness the spectacle of water gushing through Glory Hole. Re-create the life of an 1830s pioneer family at Parker Hickman homestead. Hear the roar and feel the spray as a 50 foot waterfall crashes in front of you in the total darkness of Eden Cave. Sample the hot apple slices being dropped into canning jars in the kitchen of a local family. Explore bluff shelters once inhabited by prehistoric Indians. Learn to spot ginseng and sassafras and Jack in the Pulpit. Cook biscuits in a dutch oven on an open campfire. These are a few of the authentic experiences you may have on an ecotour in Newton County.

"What is an ecotour?" you may ask. As defined by the Ecotourism Society, an international organization, it is responsible travel to natural areas which conserves the local environment and improves the wellbeing of local people. Ecotourism is widely practiced in many natural areas of the world, but it is only recently catching on and growing in the United States.

"Responsible travel" means the visitor comes prepared to learn about the area. Because the visitor appreciates what he is experiencing, he is inclined to preserve and

What in the World is an Ecotour?

protect it, first by his conduct while he is here, secondly, through educating and informing others of the need to preserve it, and thirdly, by supporting it with his tourism dollars. Because groups are kept small, no more than twelve on a tour, the visitor gets personalized attention and can get to know the others on the tour. In Newton County, ecotourism means that tours are conducted by local people, and supplies are purchased locally--all helping to boost the local economy.

Ecotours are conducted according to a management plan developed by local residents in cooperation with public resource managers including the Forest Service and Buffalo National River (National Park Service). Sites are monitored for adverse impact of visitation and steps are taken to protect areas from being "loved to death". Some areas with endangered species of plants or animals are kept off limits for tours.

In 1994, residents of Newton County met together to develop a plan for the future of the county. All residents agreed that preservation of our rural quality of life, our cultural values and heritage, and our pristine natural resources were paramount in any community development effort. Tourism seemed a natural choice for capitalizing on our resources to create jobs, but residents did not want the unbridled development that has blighted many similar natural areas.

By taking an ecotour in Newton County, you will be supporting the local economy and helping to create jobs for local people. At the same time, you will be helping to protect and preserve the natural and cultural resources of Newton County that you are paying to experience. A portion of the fee you pay goes to county government to help keep the roads and other infrastructure in good repair.

There are three ecotour providers in the county. Ozark Ecotours, a project of the Newton County Resource Council, a non-profit community development organization, offers a schedule of day-long tours in the spring and fall, and arranges custom and packaged tours year round. . Call or write: Ozark Ecotours, P.O. Box 513, Jasper, AR 72641, Phone 501 446-5898.

Ozark EcoAdventures, a regional cooperative business sponsored by Ozark Mountain Region Tourism Association, works to foster sustainable tourism on a year-around basis and uses cross-selling throughout the Ozarks region to develop the ecotourism market. Call or write: Ozark EcoAdventures, PO Box 431, Jasper, AR 72641 or call 501 434-5232.

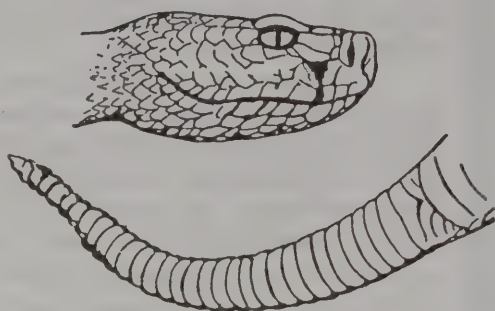
Red Winds offers awareness walks and discovery hikes with emphasis placed on enjoyment, awareness, quiet time and being a part of nature. Call or write: Red Winds, HCR 70, Box 404, Jasper, AR 72641, 501 420-3357.

A Few Imperfections

Nature has her own way of keeping people humble and there are a few plants, spiders, insects and reptiles that can cause, at least, discomfort and, at worst, serious injury or illness. Recognizing them and knowing what you can do to protect yourself will make your outdoor activities safer and more pleasant.

Arkansas has 46 varieties of snakes but only six of these are poisonous. They are the copperhead, western cottonmouth, western pigmy rattlesnake, timber rattlesnake, western diamond-back rattlesnake and Texas coral snake. all pit vipers except the coral snake.

Poisonous snakes have elliptical pupils and undivided scales on the underside of the tail.



Pit vipers have a sensory organ between and slightly below the eye and nostril on each side of the head. They also are characterised by vertically elliptical pupils like a cat and a large head, distinctly wider at the neck,

The Texas coral snake belongs to the cobra family and has bright patterns of red, yellow and black rings around its body. It is distinguishable from harmless look-alikes of the kingsnake family because the coral snake's red bands will touch yellow bands, rather than black.

One of the most important rules of snake bite treatment is to keep calm. Relaxing the victim will help reduce heart rate and blood pressure which slows venom spread. If the snake can be identified without risking further bite, do this. Splint the bitten area if possible with a rigid object. Transport as quickly as possible to the nearest medical facility. Do not cut the bite to make it bleed. Do not suck the bite. Do not use a tourniquet and do not pack in ice. An ice bag is okay, but don't submerge the area.

Chigger mites are not seriously threatening but can really "bug" you. Chigger bites can cause swelling and intense itching. They are commonly found in tall grass, scrub brush and forest areas with scrub brush. Many small animals and birds are hosts and their feeding and bedding areas are particularly prone to infestations. Using insect repellent, pushing pant legs down into boot tops, taking a shower as soon as you come in, and washing clothes in hot water should help protect against this pest.

"Leaves three, leave it be," is the warning often quoted to children about plants in the woods and it is a good reminder. Poison oak and ivy can be found in patches along the ground, as shrubs or as climbing vines, but the three-leaved branches are characteristic.

A gummy, sticky oil in these plants is the cause of the allergic reaction many people experience. It is not spread by

"weeping" of the blisters, a common misconception, but only by contact with the oil. Using soap and water after coming in contact with these plants may just spread the oil. Washing with rubbing alcohol followed by plain water is more effective. Clothing can carry the oils for a long

time and should not be worn again until washed. A severe rash should be seen by a doctor. Lesser rashes may be treated with calamine lotion or any medication to stop itching.

Most of time, when you pull a tick off, nothing happens. Probably less than one-half of one percent of these pests carry Lyme disease or Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, but you do need to know about these and protect yourself.

The key to that protection is prevention. Use insect repellents and wear light colored clothing that fits closely at ankles, wrist and waist when in the woods. Ticks are easier to see and remove on light colors.

Get the ticks off fast. They must be attached at least two hours to transmit the causal agent of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. When you come in change clothes and look for ticks. Best removal is with a tweezers. If you use your fingers, shield them with tissue. Get hold as close to the skin as possible and pull upward with steady pressure. Don't twist or jerk. Don't use home remedies like vaseline, nail polish or matches!



Emergency Numbers

Sheriff.....	446-5124
First Responders.....	446-5124
(To get trained emergency medical personnel to help until an ambulance arrives)	
State Police.....	741-3455
Ambulance.....	365-3353
Fire.....	446-2002
Office of Emergency Services.....	294-5227
Hospital.....	365-2000

There are clinics located in both Jasper and Deer where doctors can be reached during office hours.

Almost all spiders are capable of producing venomous bites, but there are very few in the U.S. which produce harmful bites and spider bite causes only about six deaths per year. The two you should watch out for in the area are the Southern Black Widow and the Brown Recluse.

Mature females of the Southern Black Widow are large, 1 1/2 inches with legs extended, glossy black, and have a red hourglass shape on the underside of

the abdomen. Most people are bitten in outdoor toilets. A sharp pain may last several hours and muscular cramps may develop. Pain may spread to abdomen and cause weakness and tremor. See a doctor as soon as possible. The Brown Recluse is small, light brown, slim, has three pairs of eyes, and a "fiddle" or violin outline on the head. Slow-healing lesions and tissue death can be characteristic of their bite.

Lights In The Night Sky

Stargazing is a fascinating activity that even young children can enjoy and there are many places in Newton County where there are no lights and little traffic to hamper your view of the lights in the night sky. Pick a warm summer evening and treat the children to staying up late to learn about the stars. When you're ready for more knowledge, a field guide from the library can help.

The scenic pullouts on Highway 16 just west of Deer and on Highway 43 just south of Ponca are excellent choices for stargazing. Others may be found at Buffalo National River campgrounds at Erbie, Steel Creek and Ozark.

The brightest objects in the sky are the planets. You can recognize them by three characteristics: brightness, steady light and location. While stars appear to twinkle due to the bending of their light by the earth's atmosphere, planets give a steady light. They all appear close to an imaginary line across the sky which crosses the southern part of the sky, so any bright object directly overhead is not a planet.

Venus, the evening and morning star appears as a bright dot just after and before sunrise near the sun's location. A very bright yellow-white point of light appearing in the middle of the night rather high in the sky is Jupiter.

There are about 3,000 stars visible to the naked eye and an equal number lie hidden behind the horizon. Most of them can be seen if you wait the night through, or observe at different seasons of the year.

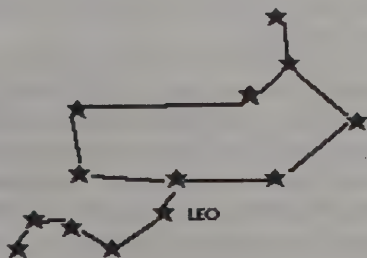
One constellation easily identified is Ursa Major, the Big Dipper, which is visible in mid-northern latitudes all year. The Dippers have bowl shapes formed by four stars and long handles. To find Polaris, the North Star, follow a line from the front side of the bowl for about 30 degrees (one-third the distance from horizon to zenith). Polaris is the handle of Ursa Minor, the Little Dipper.

In the spring sky the twins Castor and Pollux can be seen in the western sky at dusk. They are about the same in brightness but Pollux is slightly reddish in color. They are part of the constellation Gemini and are named after two Roman military gods.

South of the Twins, bright star Sirius is prominent in the western sky in the constellation Canis Major, the Great Dog.

Follow the pointers of Ursa Major (high in the northern sky) backward to see Leo, the Lion, just south of the zenith.

Facing north, follow the arc started by the Big Dipper's handle to a bright reddish star, Arcturus in the constellation Bootes, the



Herdsman.

Farther along the arc is another bright star, Spica. Blue-white in color, it is in the constellation Virgo, the Virgin.

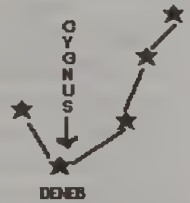
Up towards the northeast, to the lower left of Bootes, is the constellation Lyra with Vega, brighter than Spica and, along the Milky Way, Cygnus, who's brightest stars form the Northern



Cross. The three stars that form the crossbar can be seen on a line at a slight angle just below the bright star Deneb, left and up from Vega.

On summer evenings at sunset, Vega is the brightest star near the zenith. Arcturus, very slightly brighter than Vega, is the reddish star that is also high in the sky to the west. The constellation Cygnus, which includes the prominent stars of the Northern Cross, lies east of Vega along the highest part of the Milky Way.

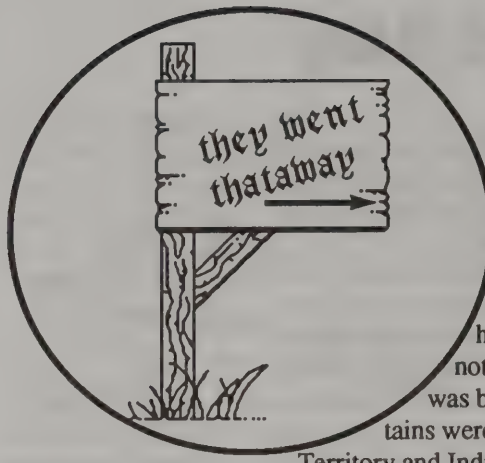
Continuing North along the Milky Way from Cygnus, you can find Cassiopeia, which is W-shaped. Southeast of Cassiopeia is Andromeda, near the horizon, and its great galaxy may be faintly visible as a misty patch of sky. The Great Square of Pegasus is farther south, on the same side of the Milky Way as Andromeda. Spica in Virgo lies toward the southwest. In the south you will find the bright reddish star Antares in the constellation Scorpius, the Scorpion.



East of Scorpius, lies Sagittarius the Archer, in which the center of our galaxy lies. Moving south along the Milky Way, you can find the star Altair in the constellation Aquila. Altair, Deneb and Vega make up the Summer Triangle.

Of the 88 constellations listed by the International Astro-nomical Union, more than half were known to the ancients and the lion, bull and scorpion were already associated with constellations by 4,000 B.C. Early records of the Greek constellations are found in the poetry of Homer, from about the ninth century B.C., and of Aratus, from about the third century B.C. Sometime between the two, the elliptic, the path the sun appears to follow in the course of a year, was identified in Babylon and divided into the 12 parts of the zodiac, the band of constellations through which the planets move. In classical mythology there are highly romantic stories which stimulate children's enthusiasm for learning about them and your library can help you embark on this pleasantly educational family activity.

Fugitive Faces



From the beginning of white settlement of northwest Arkansas, the area acquired a reputation as a hideout for the notorious. At first, it was because the mountains were still Indian

Territory and Indian law had no

jurisdiction over the white fugitives who dashed into the rugged hills to hide. Later, settlements, laws, and peacekeepers did their best to tame the region, but the terrain was still in favor of the outlaw and wild game and plenty of fresh water made it easy for a man alone or a whole gang to camp indefinitely in some remote spot until the heat was off. Even in later days, crossing a state boundary often put lawbreakers out of reach of their pursuers.

Thus, many of the most famous names in American crime annals have some connection in fable or fact with the Ozarks. Frank and Jesse James, the Youngers, Belle Starr, Bonnie and Clyde and Pretty Boy Floyd all figure at least marginally in the history of the area.

There were also feuds where family loyalty counted more than the formal structure of the law. One such feud erupted between the Miller and Robinson families in the Kenner Creek region along the Carroll-Newton County line before the Civil War. At that time, settlers claimed government land by paying a \$1.25 per acre "entry fee". Marion Miller wanted to "enter" some government owned bottom-land and rode 60 miles to the land office at Fayetteville only to find he had been forestalled by George Robinson. Soon after that, someone shot at Robinson on the road near the Miller place and later he was killed. Then Miller's father was "tried" by a self-appointed mob of citizens and hung. Marion Miller fought in the Civil War, but when he came home, he went on a rampage that reportedly left 15 dead before he himself was killed.

The Civil War was the era of the bushwhacker in northwest Arkansas. Tempers ran high and there were sympathizers of both sides living here. There are many stories of terrorism handed down through local families. Leader of the most notorious local gang was Chief Longhair, a Cave Creek resident of mixed descent who was held responsible for at least two murders and countless acts of violence against Northern sympathizers. Longhair met vigilante justice finally. He was hung from the fork of a sycamore tree near the forks of Big Creek, just north of Mt. Judea.

The end of the war didn't bring an end to the outlawry and men like Jesse James and Cole Younger began careers that were to become famous. Jesse and his brother Frank were southern sympathizers who joined the Confederate guerillas led by William C. Quantrill. After the war, their gang, which included the three Younger brothers, was active

for 13 years, 1866-1879, in an area from Arkansas to Colorado to Texas. They are credited with at least one crime in this area, the robbery of a stagecoach south of Eureka Springs. However, legend generally holds that the James brothers came here to cool their heels between robberies and maintained a low profile while frequently using eastern Madison County and western Newton County as a resting place.

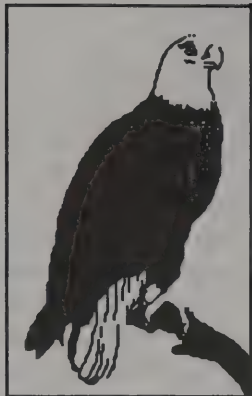
After Jesse was killed, Frank worked out a surrender agreement and dropped from the public eye. About the same time, Joe Vaughn settled on a farm at Wayton where he kept to himself and raised his family. There were, according to family historians, some in the county who knew his identity, but in the mountain tradition he was left alone. One of those to whom he revealed his identity was "Yank" Sutton, who worked with him surveying all over the county. Just before he died, Joe gave his family a short autobiography. Descendants say a look-alike was persuaded to surrender for Frank James and he changed his name and moved to Newton County.

Belle Starr, the Outlaw Queen, was born Myra Belle Shirley in Carthage, Missouri. Though her presence along the western border of the state is documented, she doesn't figure in local legend, but her nephew Henry Starr was fatally wounded while attempting a hold-up of the People's National Bank in Harrison in February, 1921. Starr's remains were placed on display in the window of the local furniture store-keeper who also served as undertaker.

Cole Younger outlived all the rest of the James and Younger gang, perhaps only because he was captured during the well-known robbery attempt in Northfield, Minnesota in 1876 and spent 25 years in prison. Like the James brothers, he is believed to have been a member of Quantrill's guerrillas and probably fought at the battle of Prairie Grove during the Civil War. In 1912, Younger spoke to what the local paper called the largest crowd ever to attend a lecture in Berryville on "What Life Has Taught Me." **The North Arkansas Star** of February 2, 1912 described him as "not only a pistol-packing outlaw, he also carried along with him a copy of the Holy Bible and was an avid reader of the scriptures."

The 36 men who signed a pledge to take up arms if necessary to resist the draft during World War I didn't regard themselves as law-breakers. They saw no reason to fight the Germans on behalf of "silk-hatted fellows up in New York...to make a lot of money." For two years, from 1917-1918, they successfully hid out in Cecil Cove, an area 12 miles long and eight miles wide in the northern part of the county, avoiding the county sheriff, Federal deputies and an army colonel. Finally the "Slackers", as they were known, arranged an agreement that the government would not prosecute them and surrendered.

The 1920s and 30s were decades when gangs became famous for knocking off banks and shooting their way out and none were ever better known than Bonnie and Clyde. Although not known to have been in Newton County, at least three dashes through northwest Arkansas while running from the law are recorded, two in the Fayetteville area and one into neighboring Carroll County.



Feathered Folk

Arkansas is geologically very diverse and this physiographic variation helps determine the vegetational patterns and land use practices that affect bird populations. The Arkansas climate is fairly mild and ample rainfall and long, mild growing seasons favor a broad-leaved deciduous forest across the entire state. Thus, bird life across the state originally favored woodland species of birds. As people moved into the area, more open spaces were created and prairie birds have become more abundant. The 366 species of Arkansas birds and many migratory birds can be enjoyed in a wide variety of environments, from backyards to wilderness. Here's a few of the lesser-known feathered folk you may see in Newton County.

Perhaps birdwatching is so appealing because it requires little or no special equipment or clothing and you don't have to travel for miles to enjoy it. For whatever reasons, birding is becoming the most popular reason for visiting Arkansas, according to studies done by tourism groups.

Although you need not move from your comfortable lawn chair to enjoy watching birds, you might want to consider a few hours in the Gene Rush/Buffalo River Wildlife Management Area in the eastern part of the county, along the Buffalo National River in the northern part of the county, or at one of the Forest Service recreation areas at Falling Water, Alum Cove, or Dismal Hollow in the southern part of the county.

Sightings of Bald Eagles are fairly common and you can easily identify this American symbol by his enormous size and the white feathers on his head, although he doesn't get them until he is an adult of about two years old.

Along the river and at ponds, watch for the Great Blue Heron, a common permanent resident. The Herons are a tall, long necked wading bird, grayish brown in color. The center of crown and throat are white and sides of the crown are black, with the stripes meeting at the back of the head, where the feathers lengthen to form a crest. The Great Blue Herons nest on platforms of sticks, usually in tall trees, though sometimes on the ground. Breeding season may start as early as February, but peaks in April and May. After that, large numbers of the birds may congregate in prime feeding areas.

Red-tailed hawks are permanent residents of open areas all over the state and are especially numerous in winter. Most adults have red tails, but some do not. Likewise, some have a pattern of dark ventral marks or "belly bands",

but some don't. Color can vary from light brown to very dark. All have the characteristic raptor head and beak and square tails. They find their prey while perched, rather than when soaring, and soaring appears to be territorial defense and courtship activity.

Ruffed Grouse have been the subject of a successful Game and Fish re-stocking program in Newton County, where they disappeared by 1900. They have variegated upper feathers of buff, gray and white and irregularly black-barred and tail feathers, and large tufts of

glossy, wide black feathers at the side of the neck. The ruffed grouse drums a loud tattoo during mating season in the spring.

The Eastern Screech Owl, one of the many owls common to the hardwood forests, is adaptable to almost any location, including urban areas. He's one of the small members of the family, reaching a maximum length of about ten inches. The Eastern Screech Owl has conspicuous ear tufts, white lower body parts and rufous upper coloring, finely streaked with black. His call, or screech, is a rasping, wierd, melancholy sound. His favorite home is an apple orchard, but he's been known to nest in dwellings and barns.

Whip-Poor-Will, a migrant who returns to the Ozarks in the summer is named for his call which can be heard in the evenings and early morning hours. Whistlers who can mimic it can often "talk" back and forth to the birds and even call them in closer. Whip-poor-wills belong to the nighthawk family and comes out at night to catch his dinner on the fly, but may be flushed up from ground level hiding places during the day. He has a head finely mottled with black and white, back feathers mottled with buff and black, black primaries with broken rufous bars, and an irregularly barred tail of black and buff. The end half of the three outer feathers of the tail are white with black on the outer vane of the outer feather extending further down than on the others.

The Northern Mockingbird is Arkansas' state bird and loves urban shrubbery and dense fence rows. He's a skillful mimic with a wide variety of songs and is likely to take an exposed position when singing. His upper feathers are ashy in color and the lower are white, as are the outer tail feathers. Mockingbirds nest in thick hedges from March through June.

You can easily identify many of the songbirds, the scarlet Cardinal with his black mask; the tufted titmouse with his gray upper feathers and distinct crest; the Eastern Bluebird with his red breast; the Indigo Bunting with his darker blue hues; the handsome Blue Jay in blue and white; the Redwing Blackbird with the red oval on his black wing; the orange and black Orioles and the gentle brown wren with its speckled breast and long beak and tail. For more help with identifying birds, books are available at the local library and at the U.S. Forest Service District Ranger office in Jasper.



Screech Owl



Hawk



Mockingbird

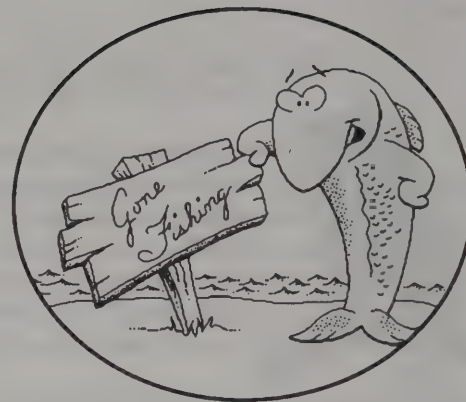
Catch the Good Life!

Night fishing for catfish, morning exploration of the waters below the rapids for bass, and sunny days luring perch behind popping bugs are magical reincarnations of the simple joys of being a carefree child. Grab a pole and be off to the creek. If you need a little advice to get you started, here it is. If you need more information on regulations and licenses, or if you'd like to hear up-to-date fishing hotline information, use the numbers provided.

By Kevin Thomas
Wildlife Officer

There are four main game fish in the waters of Newton County. They are smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, rock bass and catfish. They abound in the Buffalo River, Little Buffalo, Piney and all their main tributaries.

The fish classed as black bass are the largemouth, smallmouth and Kentucky. Arkansas law sets a limit of ten on these fish and no more than six of these may be smallmouth bass. However, there is a two-per-day limit on smallmouth in the Buffalo River. Size limit, which is the measured from



later. For early fishing, use jigs or plastic worms, any good crank bait. The fish tend to feed in pools just below the rapids. Later, try topwater baits and, as hot weather moves in, try shady spots and deeper pools. Best time of day is late evening and early morning.

Rock bass are a school type fish which tend to gang up around a rock or stump or other underwater hideaway. When you catch one, paddle back up stream and try again. You'll probably find another in the same spot. Fish early morning and late evening using small crank baits and jigs.

Catfish are bottom feeders best caught at night. Look for



SMALLMOUTH

The notch between spiny and soft dorsal (top) fins is shallow. The mouth is smaller than largemouth bass and the upper jaw does not extend behind back of eye. Its sides are bronze-colored, plain or with a series of vertical bars.

The largemouth bass has a gap between the spiny and soft dorsal (top) fins deep, almost extending to back of fish. It has a large mouth, and upper jaw extends far behind back of eye, and a dark lateral stripe.



LARGEMOUTH



ROCK BASS

Locally known as red-eye or goggle-eye. The rock bass is usually dark olive in color, with mottled sides of brownish or yellowish blotches. The large eyes are rimmed with red, and the mouth is large. The anal fin has five or six spines, which distinguishes it from the look-alike warmouth.

the front end of the lower jaw to the tip of the tail, is 14" on smallmouth in the Buffalo and 10" on the rest of the string.

To help you identify the basses, the largemouth's upper jaw extends to behind the eye. It rarely has a tooth patch on the tongue, and it has a deep notch between the dorsal fins. The scales on the cheeks are about as large as the scales on the body.

The smallmouth's upper jaw extends to the eye and it has

Fishing Hotline:

1-800-ASK- FISH

License Information:

1-800-364-GAME

Game & Fish Office

1-501-223-6351

Address:

Ark. Game & Fish

Commission

#2 Natural Resources Drive
Little Rock, AR 72205

a uniform olive brown coloration with no dark horizontal stripe on the side.

\$6.50 to \$21.50 and resident, non-resident, and three, seven or 14 day trip licenses are available.

Ready to fish? The best time of year for smallmouths is pre-spawning, April and May. Fish are most active then and feed more. They don't bite well when they're on the beds

deeper pools and still water and use worms, liver and stink baits.

For the largemouth bass, use the same baits as for smallmouth and fish morning and evening. They like calmer water and deeper pools; check well-shaded spots in summer. Largemouth spawn later than small mouth so the good spring fishing lasts a little later. Smallmouth will begin spawning when the water is about 64 degrees, but largemouth bass require a temperature of about 69 degrees before they begin making spawning beds.

If you're a novice and want to just try fishing to see if you're interested in pursuing it as an outdoor hobby, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission gives you the perfect opportunity the second weekend in June with Free Fishing Weekend. Although all limit, length, and other regulations still apply, license regulations and trout stamp requirements are suspended that weekend and you are invited to sample fishing in any of the state's waters license-free, whether resident or non-resident. Be sure to get permission if you're crossing or fishing on private property.

Many areas have special fishing derbies for children during this weekend, with prizes for most fish and biggest fish and drawings for free gifts.

The Story Behind The Signs

The word "Ozark" is the Anglicized version of "Aux Arc" meaning "with bows". This was a name reportedly used by the French explorer deTisne to designate the Bow Indians, a tribe native to the region.

The Ozark Mountains are actually plateaus, uplifted as a unit with few folds or faults. The ruggedness of these mountains is due to erosion of the plateaus by swift rivers rising in them. Man was first attracted to these mountains over 10,000 years ago. Very little is known about these early inhabitants other than they relied on hunting for their existence. Early European settlement in Arkansas was usually outside the Ozarks, however French traders and trappers must certainly have ranged into them during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Other white men followed the Arkansas River to the foothills and, by 1800, trade was established between the Euro-Americans and the Cherokees. By 1820, new settlements were being established along the main rivers and streams reaching into the Springfield Plateau and Boston Mountains.

These early settlers supplemented their farm income by working in the timber industry. While most of the profit went to the company owners, mostly out-of-state residents, the locals were employed as sawyers, haulers, sawmill and cooperage workers. By the 1930s, the timber industry had slowed down considerably. Some of the young men joined the Civilian Conservation Corps in order to support their families.

On December 8, 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt signed a proclamation creating the Arkansas National Forest, now the Ouachita, from the land south of the Arkansas River. On March 6, 1908, he signed the proclamation creating the Ozark Forest from the land north of the river.

The first Forest Headquarters was at Fort Smith. Samuel J. Record was the first Forest Supervisor, administering both the Arkansas (Ouachita) and Ozark National Forest.

Subsequent supervisors were Donald E. Fitton, 1909; Francis Kiefer, 1909-1916; Edward V. Clark, 1916-1917; Charles J. Heller, 1917-1919; Ben F. Vaughn 1919-1922; Kenneth E. Kimball, 1922; Henry R. Koen, 1922-1939; Phillip H. Bryan, 1939-1941; W.C. Branch, 1941-

1945; Paul H. Gerrard, 1945-1954; Paul A. Swarthout, 1954-1956; J.B. Dahl, 1956-62; A.Z. Owen, 1962-68; James S. Sabin, Jr., 1968-71; Larry D. Henson, 1971-78; James R. Crouch, 1978-1986 and Lynn

The office of the Buffalo Ranger District of the Ozark National Forest is located on Highway 7 just north of Jasper. Maps, books, and other information are available. Their phone number is 446-5122

Neff, 1987-.

On December 31, 1908, the headquarters were moved to Harrison and during fiscal year 1918, the headquarters were moved to Russellville.

Presidential proclamations increasing and decreasing the area of the Ozark

National Forest occurred frequently during the early years. Three of the

more significant changes were the

Executive Order of President Franklin D.

Roosevelt transferring the Magazine

Ranger district from the Ouachita to the

Ozark, the Henry R. Koen Experimental Forest was

added to the Ozark on June 14, 1950, and the proclamation

of President Dwight D.

Eisenhower on November 8, 1960, creating the St. Francis National Forest.

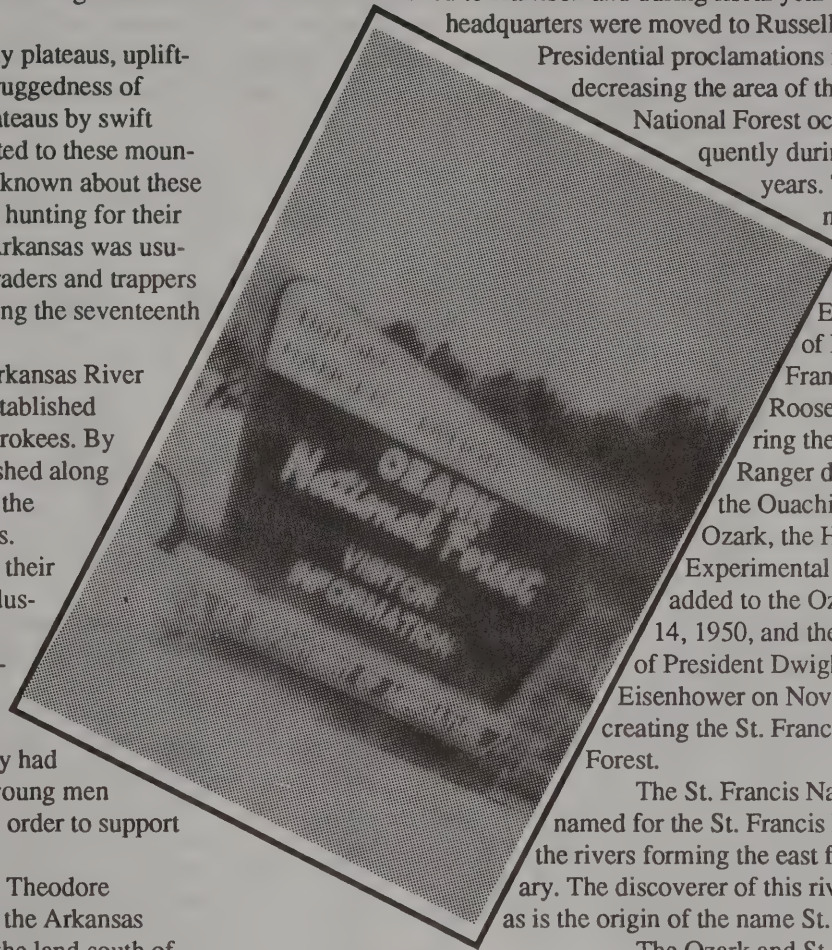
The St. Francis National Forest is named for the St. Francis River, one of the rivers forming the east forest boundary. The discoverer of this river is unknown, as is the origin of the name St. Francis.

The Ozark and St. Francis National Forests are both administered by the Forest Supervisor in Russellville.

The Ozark-St Francis National Forest has a net acreage of 1,149,502 acres. Included are 21,000 special interest area acres, 2,400 research natural area acres, 7,200 acres in the Ozark Highland Trail, and 459 acres of developed recreation sites. There are 230,247 acres of wilderness areas and 42,163 acres in Forest Service game refuge areas. About one-third of all the designated wilderness area land in the state are in this forest.

All of the Ozark Forest has been cut over at some time and there are no virgin areas. Many abandoned farm sites can be still be found all over the forest, perhaps marked by only a few foundation stones, and scores of old logging roads criss-cross it.

The goal of the Forest Service is the management of all the various renewable surface resources so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the needs of the American people. This multiple use of resources includes management of regular periodic output of various renewable resources, maintenance of visitor areas that range from handicapped-accessible to wilderness experience, as well as study of the natural features and related history.



Old Mountain Friends

Did you know some of those twisted and gnarled cedar trees on the cliffs overlooking the river may be as much as 800 years old? A study of the story told by their rings is helping scientists understand climate changes and water cycles over the centuries. Trees are valuable Ozark Mountain friends for many reasons - their lumber, shade, fruits, beauty and the role they play in providing clean air. among them. You can easily identify some of them on your walks or drives with the following information. Visit your library, the Forest Service Ranger Stations, or the county Extension office for more information on trees of the area.



Flowering Dogwood is a beautiful tree averaging, in this area, to be about 25 feet. You can see its showy white flowers between April and May and its fruit, a bright red berry, between September and December. On older trees, the Dogwoods bark tends to be gray to black and broken into small, scaly blocks. Dogwoods are located statewide and are usually found on hillsides, coves, slopes, in shady areas, and sometimes on low ground.

Sarvis is often mistaken for the Dogwood. Like the Dogwood it has white flowers, but these flowers bloom much earlier, between February and April. Its fruit ripen between April and May. Again, like the Dogwood it has red berries, but these are edible and turn blue as they ripen. The Sarvice, or Service berry is named so because its early flowers were gathered for church services. Sarvices are located statewide and commonly found on open hillsides and rocky slopes.



Another flowering tree is the Red Bud. It is known for its abundance of small, pink or rose colored flowers that bloom from March to May. These flowers appear before the Red Bud's light green heart-shaped leaves. The Red Bud is found statewide except in overflow areas of larger rivers. It can be located on hillsides and in soils that are moist.



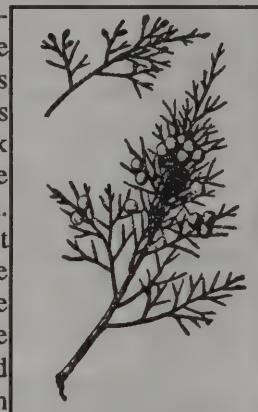
The Umbrella Magnolia is tree usually small, hardly ever growing beyond 40 feet. Its bark is light gray and marked by small bumps. The Umbrella Magnolia has large leaves that are often 14-22 inches long and 8-10 inches wide. The large, ill smelling, white, Magnolia flower blooms between April and June. Its fruit, a blunt crooked cone, grows from September to October. The Umbrella Magnolia is often located in the Ozark and Ouachita mountain regions; com-

monly in valley coves, headwater areas of some streams and mountainous counties.

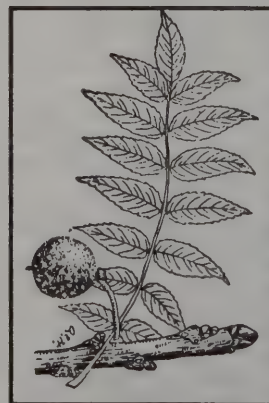


The Pawpaw is a small tree with smooth gray bark. It has a straight trunk and long straight slender brittle limbs. Its flowers are cup-shape of deep reddish brown and appear to look leathery. The flower blooms before the Pawpaw's light green, eight to ten inch leaves. Its fruit is soft when ripe and greenish yellow to very dark brown. The Pawpaw is located statewide and found most often in moist areas, along streams, rivers, and coves.

The Eastern Red Cedar tree is generally 40 to 50 feet tall; with the crown of the tree pointed. Its bark is a thin, reddish brown. The leaves are oblong and flattened and dark green. Its flowers, small and cone like, bloom from January to March. The fruit are berry-like cones, that grow from June to winter. The French-Canadians called this tree "Baton Rouge" or red stick. The Eastern Red Cedar is located statewide and may often occur in small stream valleys, and on flat soils where it tends to grow favorably.



The Black Walnut tree is normally 100 feet tall and four feet in diameter. It's bark is dark reddish brown with ridges. The Black Walnut's leaves are compound leaves (15-23 leaflets on the same stalk) one to two feet long and are usually yellowish green. The male flowers are three inch long catkins and the female are round, without petals, green and are found at the ends of new twigs. The fruit of the Black Walnut is a nut enclosed in a rough green husk that gradually turns black. The Black Walnut's kernels are valuable for flavoring uses.



The Black Walnut can be found statewide especially in slopes, ravines, gullies and flood plains of small streams.

The Gift of Waters

*Water formed this land,
carving out the
limestone bluffs
and making
verdant valleys.*

*Water carried
the early settlers
up from the White River
into the rugged
mountains.*

*Water supported life,
making these farmers
successful, allowing
the growth that
brought communities,
churches and schools.*

*Water became and
remained the very center
of the Ozarks culture,
providing sustenance,
recreation, and refreshment
for the soul.*

*Water is a
treasured gift.*

*Knowing that,
we have come to say
it is the water
that weaves a spell
and, if you linger
long enough
to drink three times,
the water will always
draw you back.*



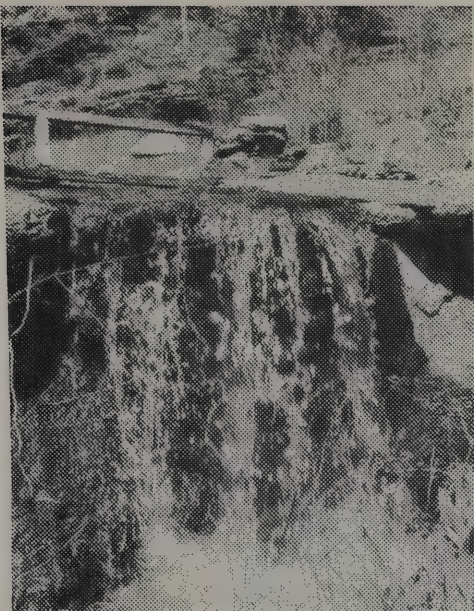
*Nobody can be in good health if he does not
have all the time fresh air, sunshine and good
water (Flying Hawk, Ogalla Sioux Chief)*



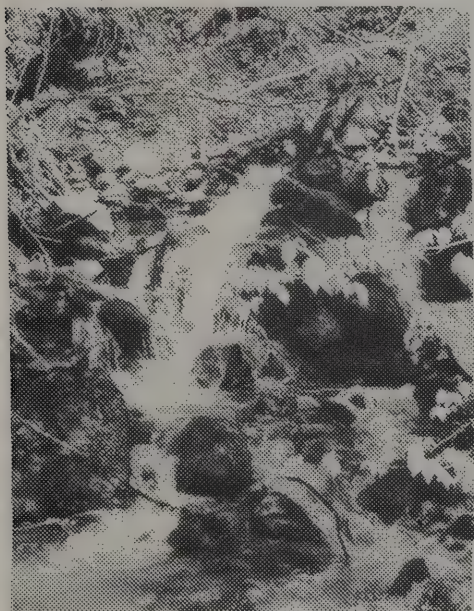
*The musid crept by me on the waters -
(Shakespeare - The Tempest)*



*Yes, as everyone knows, meditation and water
are wedded forever (Moby Dick - Melville)*



*From the waterfall he named her, Minnehaha,
Laughing Water (Longfellow: Hiawatha)*



*I make a sudden sally, and sparkle out among
the fern to bicker down the valley (The Brook's
Song - Tennyson)*



*I chatter, chatter as I flow to join the brimming river,
for men may come and men may go, but I go on for-
ever (The Brook's Song - Tennyson)*

The Newton County Action Team gratefully acknowledges the cooperation of the United State Forest Service in the production of this magazine, both in financing through a grant fund and in selecting and compiling the information and map

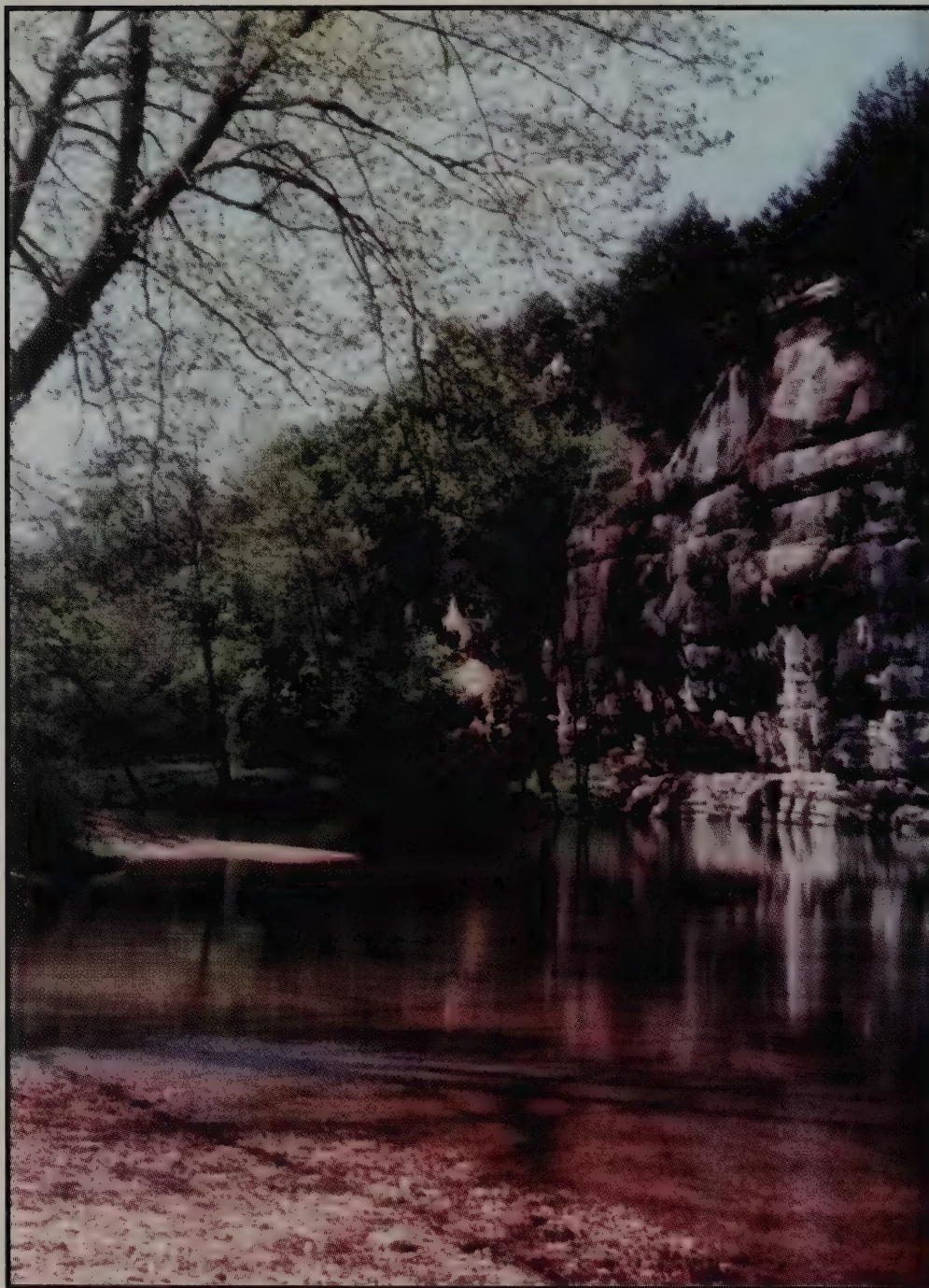


photo by Joy Little

Buffalo National River

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